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**TODAY**

**10P**

## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TODAY**

**Election '97**

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Michael Gove on what Scotland can tell us about Blair's Britain

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The Asian girls trapped between two cultures

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Like started for ten

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**The Chelsea Boot**

Brian Glanville meets the Italian dynamo Gianfranco Zola in the Magazine

**PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY**

Pressure on MP grows as broadcaster agrees to fight on anti-sleaze ticket

## BBC man Bell to stand against Neil Hamilton

By Philip Webster, Russell Jenkins and Carol Midgley

THE broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy.

The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates who are to step aside, meant the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was reaching breaking-point last night.

Dissidents within his Tattler party had already secured agreement that there should be a secret ballot at his adoption meeting tomorrow night — and that in itself put a big question mark over his chances of survival. Now Mr Bell's decision means that Mr Hamilton may have to quit to give the Conservatives any hope of retaining the seat.

If he goes, Mr Bell is expected to withdraw, leaving the Labour candidate Jon Kelly and the Liberal Democrat Roger Barlow to return to the fray.

The opposition party leaderships were delighted last night at their coup in securing Mr Bell, a widely respected journalist who became a household figure as the BBC's white-suited war correspondent. His interest in fighting the seat was made known to Tony Blair's office by a photographer who works for the party and knows the journalist well. Mr Bell then spoke to Paddy Ashdown and Mr Blair's senior staff before travelling to the constituency yesterday to meet local officials of both parties.

They were apparently impressed by his determination to



"It's a crazy longshot, but I think it's worth putting anything on the Tories to win"

make a stand on the issue of sleaze and after some discussions agreed that their candidates should stand aside. Mr Bell was a Young Liberal at university, but he has never been politically active.

The news of Mr Bell's readiness to stand came as the final blow to the Tattler Conservative Association. Most members have been loyal to Mr Hamilton, but there is increasing concern among them that the MP has become a liability.

A recent ICM poll suggested that Labour would give Mr Hamilton a close fight in the fifth safest Conservative seat in Britain, while an alternative candidate would enjoy a comfortable nine-point lead.

Tony Martin, the Tattler Association treasurer, led the calls for a secret ballot to allow constituent

cy members to register their views without appearing to be personally disloyal to Mr Hamilton or his wife Christine.

He said: "My personal view is that Neil Hamilton is innocent of the charges against him. I have taken these steps because the electorate does not share that view. He is an electoral liability. This seat, the fifth safest in the country, is now entirely loseable."

"An adoption meeting is normally just a rally. There is obviously a great deal of feeling against Neil Hamilton. The argument I put forward is that a lot of people feel inhibited in expressing a view from social constraints because he is friends with a lot of them. It takes a brave person to stand up against them."

Laurance Hobday, a Macclesfield councillor, welcomed the secret ballot, although he said it would not affect the way he intends to vote. "It may allow other members of the association to feel a little freer to vote the way the electorate is telling them," he said.

"I spoke to a farmer about a completely separate matter the other day and asked him about whether he was a Conservative voter. He said 'yes' but he would not vote for Neil Hamilton. He said he would vote for virtually anyone but Mr Hamilton."

Mr Hamilton said yesterday that he intended to make no public comments.

Election 97, pages 7-11  
Peter Stothard, page 20  
Leading article, page 21  
Lib-Dem manifesto, pages 40, 41



Bell: war correspondent took decision after contacting both Labour and the Liberal Democrats

## Cook takes Tory Eurosceptic line on the single currency

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

ROBIN COOK yesterday tried to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out British membership under Labour during the next Parliament — if it had not joined in 1999.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging John Major to adopt. The move was the latest campaign shift by Labour after a weekend in which it had been accused by the Tories of making policy on the hoof.

The two most significant changes, conversion to the principle of privatisation and the dropping of key concessions promised to union leaders, were confirmed yesterday. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that he would look at the possible sale of government assets, land and building worth billions of pounds. Leadership sources also said that there was no longer any plan

to give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers, or to cut the time workers need to be in a job to be able to claim unfair dismissal.

Mr Blair will make the privatisation shift explicit today in a City speech. He will say that the presumption of his government would be "that economic activity is best left to the private sector".

Mr Cook's single currency intervention was seized on by the Tories as yet another gaffe. But it appeared to have been well-planned. Rightwing Tory MPs were last night pressing for a fresh shift from the Government to match Mr Cook's move, and ministers, caught off-guard, were questioning whether he had been speaking without the backing of Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

It appeared unlikely that both were consulted by Mr Cook on the precise wording, but last night

they were professing satisfaction at his remarks — in line with Mr Blair's statement that there were "formidable obstacles" in the way of entry in the first wave in 1999.

Mr Cook told LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme: "If you didn't join in 1999, it's very difficult to see a government that has taken the decision that Britain wasn't ready in 1999, coming to the decision that it would be ready by the year after or the year after that." Labour has made a commitment to have a referendum if joining a single currency was contemplated.

"I doubt whether any Government is going to have such a referendum immediately before a general election. So, in the event that Britain doesn't join in the first wave... I would have thought the probability is that one is looking towards the subsequent Parliament."

## Crewman dies in fire on liner

A German crewman died when fire broke out on the Cunard liner *Vista Fjord* near the Bahamas, forcing nearly a thousand passengers and crew to prepare to abandon ship. The fire was put out when the vessel docked at Freeport three hours later.

## Cup final replay

A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16. Liverpool lost to Coventry in the Premiership. Page 25

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## Defiant Aintree back under starter's orders

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Grand National, which had to be abandoned on Saturday after two IRA bomb hoaxes, will become a symbol of defiance today when it is run amid the tightest security ever at a British sporting event.

After a "Herculean effort" by police, who conducted an inch-

by-inch search of the 250-acre Aintree racecourse and checked 7,000 vehicles, ground staff began repairing damage to the track yesterday.

Thirty-six runners are expected to line up for the rescheduled race at 5pm today, which will be shown live by BBC Television. No private vehicles will be allowed on the course; all specta-

tors will be searched, and several parts of the track will be closed to the public.

Police are also stepping up security for three major sporting events next weekend: Sunday's FA cup semi-final at Arsenal's ground at Highbury, north London, the other semi-final in Manchester, and the London Marathon, in which 25,000

people will run. Yesterday, however, a determination to run the world's greatest steeplechase shone through all the chaos and havoc brought about by its postponement. "The race must be run for the sake of the

Continued on page 2, col 8  
Car chaos, page 3  
National pride, page 25

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## Loyalists burn down Catholic church

Hundreds of Roman Catholics celebrated Mass in a parish hall yesterday after their church was burnt down by loyalists in Randalstown, Co Antrim. Neighbouring Catholic churches lent an altar and vestments to allow Mass to be held in the hall across the road from St MacNissi's Church. The Most Rev Patrick Walsh, the Bishop of Down and Connor, who celebrated Mass in the hall, said the arson attack was "wanton destruction" and an "abomination". In a veiled rebuke to the Rev Ian Paisley, who has been stirring up anti-Catholic sentiments recently, the bishop condemned "much publicised anti-Catholic diatribes". He said: "There are people who are mauling this day in and day out consistently. That is bound to have an effect on people's mentalities and... can lead to something like this."

## Pay-as-you-drive plan

A pilot car-share scheme to help to reduce congestion and pollution begins today in two districts of Edinburgh. One hundred householders, who will pay an annual fee of £120 to join, will have access to a pool of cars that they will be able to hire on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. The £230,000 scheme is mainly funded by the Transport Department.

## Prison suicide warning

Overcrowding could increase the risk of suicide at Wandsworth prison, according to the Board of Visitors' annual report. Paul Infield, the board's chairman, said yesterday: "Prisoners are spending more time locked in their cells. One of the things that could happen when people are left alone with their thoughts is an increase in suicide."

## BBC retrospective

Confidential footage from the BBC's private archive is being used in a four-part documentary, *Auntie - The History of the BBC*, to be broadcast this autumn. The series will cover the period from the BBC's formation in 1922 to the appointment of Marmaduke Hussey as chairman in 1986. Jeremy Bennett, an independent programme-maker, is the producer.

## Oasis brothers' wealth

Noel and Liam Gallagher of the pop group Oasis have joined the ranks of Britain's richest men and women, according to *The Sunday Times* list of Britain's richest 1,000. They enter the list at 461 with an estimated wealth of £40 million. However, last night their spokesman said the figure was wide of the mark and declared: "It's rubbish."

## Missing pilot plea

The fate of an airline pilot who vanished from his yacht a year ago may be decided by a coroner. Detectives have failed to find any trace of Norman Harris, a British Airways pilot from Tadworth, Surrey, and have asked for an inquest to be held. If this is agreed, the coroner would rule on what happened to Mr Harris on April 4, 1996.

## Learner driver code

Driving instructors are to get a code of conduct that could ban them from having any physical contact with their pupils other than an initial handshake. The Driving Standards Agency said the code was aimed at eliminating the potential for harassment. Last month a driving instructor was convicted of indecently assaulting a female pupil.

# Magistrates to fine high earners more heavily

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

HIGH earners are to be fined more heavily under new guidelines for magistrates. An income of £30,000 a year is classified as high, £13,000 as average and £5,000 as low.

Advice to be issued this week to the 27,500 members of the Magistrates' Association says: "Punishment does not lie in the amount of the fine but in the degree of hardship and inconvenience caused by the need to pay."

The guidelines also recommend that an early guilty plea could cut a third off a fine or jail term.

They urge magistrates to treat racial motivation as an aggravating factor for many offences, including

assault, affray and household burglary. The guidelines, backed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and produced by the Association and the Justices' Clerks Society, are aimed at greater consistency.

Lord Bingham says: "I think it most important that, within discretionary limits, magistrates' courts up and down the country should endeavour to approach sentencing with a measure of consistency, and I have no doubt that these guidelines will contribute powerfully to that end."

The guide provides magistrates with charts to help them to decide the appropriate level of fine and jail. It suggests that a high income offender convicted of cultivating cannabis should be fined £540, compared with

£225 for an average earner and £90 for a low income offender. A high income earner convicted of being drunk and disorderly could be fined £270, compared with £115 and £45 for average and low incomes respectively.

Driving without insurance could result in graduated fines of £1,300, £540 and £215. In drink-drive cases, the guidance gives the rate of alcohol in breath, blood and urine, and the corresponding length of disqualification and size of fines. A motorist with 80-125 millilitres of alcohol in his or her blood would be disqualified for 12 months, but if on a high income the fine could be £1,080, compared with £450 and £180. The guideline fines for failing to stop and failing to report an

accident are £865 for a high earner, £360 for average income and £145 for low pay.

Magistrates are not forced to keep to the recommended fines and each of the booklets' 52 pages carries the advice: "Remember: these are guidelines, not a tariff." In most cases magistrates will operate them. It is the first time the association has produced guideline fines linked to income. The figures follow the scrapping in 1993 of the Government's controversial "unit" fine system, under which fines were linked to the seriousness of the offence and an offender's disposable weekly income.

In other examples of the new advice, a high earner found guilty of criminal damage could be fined £810

compared with £340 for someone on average pay and £135 for a low income. Failing to surrender to bail could bring fines of £350, £150 and £60 respectively, and for careless driving £450, £180 and £75. A motorist convicted of driving with 161-195 millilitres of alcohol in the blood could be banned from driving for two years and fined £1,800, £750 or £300.

The income-related penalties for failing to produce motoring documents are £145, £60 and £25. The list also provides guidance on fines for motoring offences, including driving in reverse, where it recommends fines of £865, £360 and £145, and for stopping on the hard shoulder penalties of £300, £120 and £50.

## Anglo-Irish elite given wide berth by embassy

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is turning its back on the remnants of its loyal servants in Ireland after the Ambassador to Dublin ordered the removal of Anglo-Irish aristocrats from the embassy's guest list.

In a stark reminder of the waning influence of the scions of the old Protestant Ascendancy, Veronica Sutherland has told her social secretary that the aristocracy and the landed gentry are no longer central to Irish society. The clipped tones of earls and baronets have now been replaced at the ambassador's parties by the accents of Irish industrialists and leading lights from Dublin's musical and theatrical worlds.

The list of those who have come under the Ambassador's disapproving gaze reads like a *Who's Who* of the Anglo-Irish elite. The Earl of Mount Charles, whose forebears fought with William of Orange at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, heads the list. It also includes Clementine Beitz, a cousin of Nancy Mitford, who lives at the magnificent Russborough House in Co Wicklow, and Cholmeley-Harrison, who

lives at Emo Court in Fingal.

Yet the members of the gentry and aristocracy all say that they were not aware that they had been removed from the embassy guest list, and they insist that they would never complain, were they considered unsuitable. However, the embassy has been inundated with calls from irate members of the landed gentry who wondered why they have been excluded from parties at Glencairn, the Ambassador's splendid Edwardian residence in the south Dublin suburbs.

One prominent peer spoke privately of his anger at the way in which Mrs Sutherland had ignored the Anglo-Irish since she took over as Ambassador in 1995.

He said: "The Ambassador has never sought my opinion, which means that she is not doing her job properly because she should be canvassing opinions of all strands of thought in Ireland. Previous ambassadors were always keen to hear what we had to say."

The aristocrats point out that Mrs Sutherland, 57, is out



Veronica Sutherland, who took over as British Ambassador to Ireland in 1995

from a different cloth to her Oxford-educated predecessors. Educated at the Royal School, Bath, she studied at the Universities of London and Southampton before joining the Diplomatic Service in 1965.

One observer of the Dublin diplomatic scene said that the Ambassador had wanted a "new broom" to be taken to the guest list when she arrived in 1995. The observer said: "When the Ambassador arrived in Dublin she looked down the guest list and asked why so many people with Anglo-Irish connections were invited so regularly. She took a utilitarian view and said that more Irish people should be invited."

The Ambassador's new approach faced its first challenge when the invitation list was drawn up for a large party that was held for the Prince of

Wales during his historic visit to Dublin in 1995.

The Earl of Mount Charles, 45, who was once a regular at embassy parties, was initially left off the list until an official at the embassy pointed out that he qualified in his own right as a prominent Irishman regardless of his lineage. The earl, who is a leading member of the governing Fine Gael party who used to staggerock concerts at Slane Castle, was hastily added to the list.

Charles Lynght, a Dublin barrister who is a veteran of embassy parties over 30 years, said that there were fewer Anglo-Irish at the parties because the elite was in decline.

He said: "When I first went to the embassy there were more Anglo-Irish because they were a power in the land. Major businesses in Dublin were still in the hands of old

families. But that has all changed." Some of the new faces at embassy parties say that the guest lists for Mrs Sutherland's parties always have a well-chosen cross-section of Irish people. James Hickey, the chairman of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, said: "The parties have a fair old mix including captains of industry, senior civil servants and politicians, and people from the theatre."

"The Ambassador has done an excellent job in bringing the parties up to date and making the embassy very accessible."

Mary O'Rourke, the deputy leader of the main opposition Fianna Fail party, described Mrs Sutherland as "tremendously hospitable." "The Ambassador always has a very interesting mix of people. She is very likeable," Ms O'Rourke said.

## National

Continued from page 1  
sponsors, Martell, the Grand National itself, and the nation," said Jenny Pitman, trainer of the runners Nanthan Lad and Smith's Band.

Charles Barnett, the clerk of the course, said: "We are overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received from so many quarters, and believe it right for the Martell Grand National to be rescheduled."

"The message we are sending out is that this great race is part of the nation's heritage. It is one of the most important sporting events in the world, and it must go ahead."

About 25 ground staff from Aintree and Haydock who began to repair fences damaged by the departing crowd had to remove litter, bottles, and cans left behind.

Bottles had been smashed on the course by animal rights protesters, according to Philip Sharpe, the lad who looks after Suni Bay, one of the National favourites. "They say they care about animals, but they are hypocrites. They started smashing bottles and throwing bottles," he said.

At a press conference last night an exhausted Mr Barnett said that today's security operation at the course would be thorough. "Everyone who attends the racecourse will be searched, which I'm afraid will not make it very easy. However, the police have assured us that they will do their best to be as speedy as they can."

"We are endeavouring to set up arrangements for transport to the course as we will not allow any private vehicles to park within the confines of the racecourse."

He said it was nothing short of amazing how well Saturday's evacuation had gone and the way the public had behaved.

"If someone told you to evacuate a 250-acre site on which there were 75,000 people, the logistics are quite staggering. The officials, the police, and the co-operation of the public were very successful."

National pride, page 25

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## Children learn to save but soccer kit still scores

BY ROBIN YOUNG

MILLIONS of image-conscious children have diverted their parents' spending away from traditional children's clothes to branded sportswear and replica football kits. Verdict: the retail market analysts says the market for boys' clothes shrank by 2 per cent last year, while £150 million was spent on replica football kits.

Despite this expenditure, children are becoming a generation of shrewd money managers. They are increasing their savings despite the first cut in their income for a decade, according to the annual pocket-money monitor issued by Wall's, the ice-cream maker.

Children are subsisting on weekly parental grants averaging 7p less than in 1996, at £2.33.

Children's income from pocket money is not the only area to have suffered a decline. Their total weekly income, including earnings from paper rounds and odd-jobs and handouts from friends and relatives, has decreased by 7 per cent. Though children have worked hard enough to boost their earnings by 4 per cent, gifts and largesse from sources other than their parents have diminished by 5 per cent.

Despite this, youngsters are stashing away money faster than before. The 1997 survey shows that 36 per cent now save their pocket money, compared with a mere 4 per cent in 1975 when the monitor began. Last year the amount being saved doubled, and this year,

despite their straitened economic circumstances, children managed to boost their savings by a further 10 per cent.

Sue Keane, a consumer psychologist, said: "Children are taking a much more responsible attitude toward their pocket money. With an election and uncertainty about the economy, children are reflecting their parents' caution, and saving more, rather than blowing everything on short-term treats."

Though there has been a decrease in pocket money overall, girls are still receiving preferential treatment. Their pocket money averages £2.48, compared with £2.19 for boys. Scottish children get the most generous treatment, receiving an average £2.95 in pocket money and £5.14 in total weekly receipts. Children in Wales and the West have to get by with £2.14 pocket money and an average of £3.56 in weekly income.

It is unlikely that much of children's prodigious saving stems from their preference for football kit and other sports-associated leisurewear. They are notoriously expensive and likely to cost more than the items of children's clothing they are increasingly replacing. Verdict predicts that the sportswear market, already worth £1.4 billion a year, will produce compound growth of 10 per cent a year into the next century. No doubt some of the financial whizzkids populating our classrooms will see a good investment opportunity in that.

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'We had to do something to help. Thousands had nowhere to sleep, so we offered our spare room'

## Merseyside wages its own war against IRA terrorists

By CAROL MIDDLEY AND RUSSELL JENKINS

HUNDREDS of Grand National racegoers faced spending a second night in Liverpool last night as attempts to retrieve thousands of stranded cars from Aintree turned to chaos.

Drivers waiting outside the course were first told by police that cars could be picked up at noon. The deadline was then put back to 3pm before police insisted cars not removed by 6pm would be locked in.

However when it became clear that the operation was not possible in the time they extended the deadline to midnight. There was further confusion when drivers turned up at the wrong gates to collect their vehicles. Some, who had left bags and jackets containing their car keys inside the main Aintree building were turned away.

A spokesman said vehicles not collected were to be removed. Owners would not be charged a fee. "If it is not possible for people to get to Aintree to collect their belongings, the property will be gathered up and secured and kept at Aintree where it can be collected tomorrow."

The chaotic scenes came as the people of Liverpool waged their own war on terrorism.

Joe Tizzard, 17, who was attempting to become the youngest winner of the Grand National for 60 years, rode three point-to-point winners in Dorset yesterday. His first visit to Aintree ended in a five-hour journey home in the back of a horsebox, sitting on an up-turned bucket, with Straight Talk, the horse he was due to ride. Sharing the journey were his parents and sister, and trainer Paul Nicholls.

Police, social services, voluntary organisations and ordinary citizens reacted swiftly to implement evacuation procedures for thousands of stranded Aintree racegoers which officials said was the biggest since the war.

More than 2,000 people spent the night in sports halls, churches and schools as hastily arranged beds were marshalled around the city. An estimated 1,000 more were invited into private homes as police cordoned off their vehicles and belongings.

Vic Charella, the director of Liverpool Social Services, said Operation Aintree had been

the largest scale emergency evacuation in modern times. "I cannot think of an occasion where people have had to be accommodated on such a scale. For the social services department it brings back memories of Hillsborough."

The procedures had followed the city and Sefton Council's emergency disaster plans. As many as 5,000 racegoers from all over the country woke up to be served breakfast by Merseyside's Good Samaritans and some even stayed for Sunday lunch with families.

More than 20,000 were evacuated in a fleet of 100 buses and coaches from Aintree to Albert Dock and those who needed overnight accommodation were sent on to the council centres. Everton Sports Centre took 500 alone. They were fed burgers and chips and emerged rested, singing the praises of the city's residents as some prepared to enjoy today's 'people's National'.

Jenny Pitman, the trainer, said she welcomed the decision to run the race. "We cannot be held to ransom by these people and neither can the country."

People who had to leave dogs in their vehicles overnight were escorted to the car parks in the centre of the course to retrieve their pets. One man was allowed to his car at 7am. A small brown terrier sat on the back seat.

Jimmy Hill, the broadcaster, who stood first in the queue with his wife to collect his car, put himself forward as the crowd's spokesman. "It is all very British," he said. "It is like the war. The more we are inconvenienced, the more we laugh."

Ron Rooney and his wife Joan had seen the drama unfold on television. Mr Rooney, 59, said: "We had to do something to help. The television said there would be up thousands of people with nowhere to spend the night so we rang the radio station and offered our spare room."

They took in Julia Edgeworth, 20, a university student and Joe Jefferson, her boyfriend. "By nine o'clock we were sitting in the lounge with Ron and Joan drinking lager and playing party games," she said.

Jim Regan and his son Dave were settling down in front of the television when the chaos began. By midnight on Saturday they had made over 300 cups of tea for evacuees.

Mr Regan, 65, a retired engineer, said: "People were roaming up and down our road like lost sheep. They were offering us money to use the toilet and the phone but we wouldn't accept a penny and invited them in for cups of tea."

Aland Gregory, Everton Sports Centre manager, said: "They ranged from children to pensioners and they were from all over the country. We had this worked out as part of the disaster emergency plan but we never envisaged anything quite like this."

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A harassed police officer directs racegoers towards their cars yesterday as the massive operation to clear the area by midnight got underway



Jenny Pitman, who insisted the race must go ahead

## Bookies delighted at race decision

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BOOKMAKERS greeted the decision to run the Grand National today with relief after Saturday's cancellation threatened to cost them about £5 million in lost profits.

The National is the country's biggest flutter of the year, with the public laying out about £70 million in bets. If the race had been cancelled, the bookmakers would have been obliged to return all the money, losing potential profits from the race but still paying for the extra staff called in to deal with the additional business.

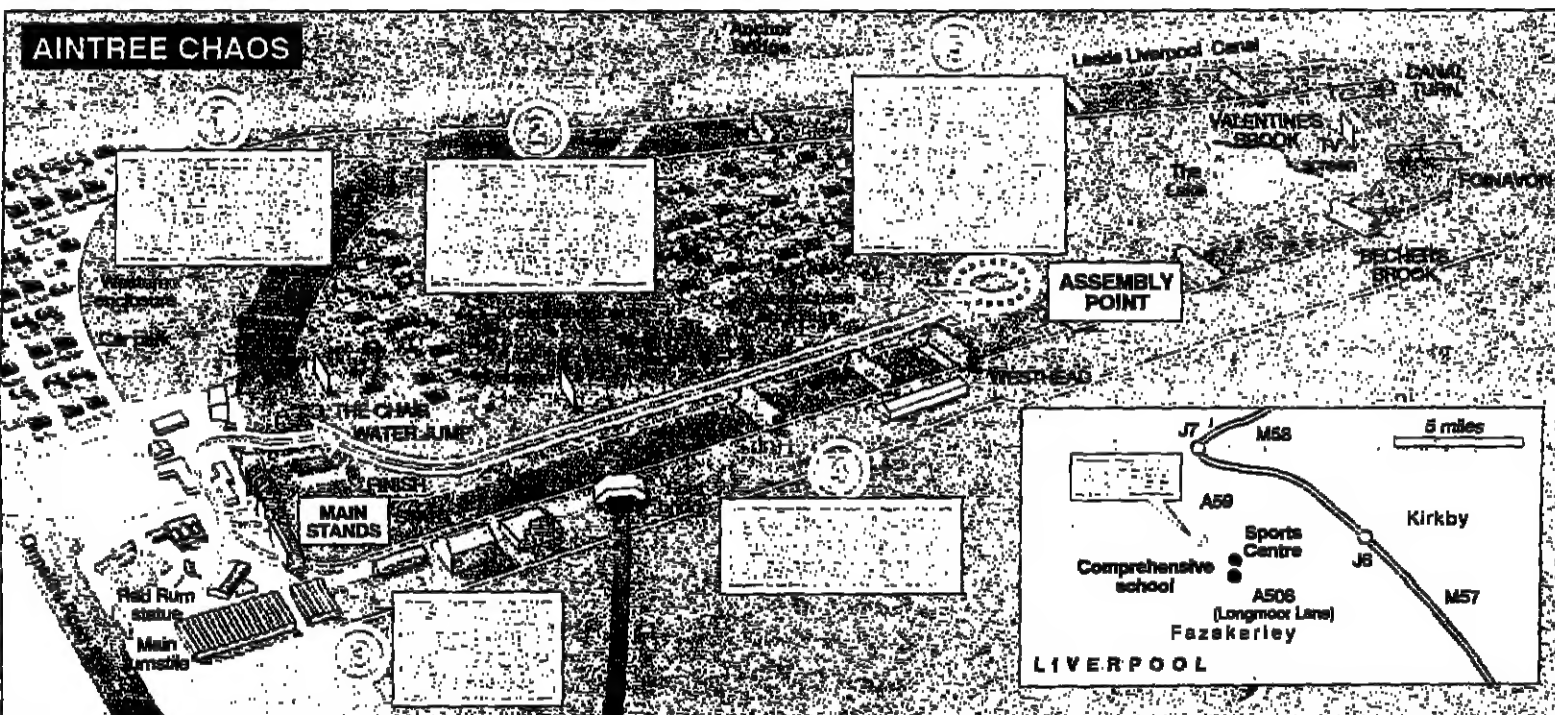
Most bookmakers are expected to offer punters the chance of withdrawing their bet ahead of the race this afternoon. Stakes that were placed after Saturday, March 29, on horses that do not take part in the race, may also be refunded.

On-course bets laid with the Tote, which have all been declared void, can also be reclaimed by applying to the address on the back. Mal-

colm Palmer, for Corals, is confident that about 99 per cent of punters will stick with their original bets. He also hopes that the bookmakers will receive some last-minute extra betting that will compensate them for the cost of calling in extra staff again today.

The main bookies could still be financially disappointed should one of the pre-race favourites win the National. William Hill has said that victory for Wythe Hide, quoted at 10-1, would result in the biggest National payout for many years. Jenny Pitman's two horses, Nabihien Lad and Smith's Band, have also proved popular with the punters.

The betting industry has faced a torrid few years since the National was abandoned after two false starts in 1993. Competition from the National Lottery has hit horse-racing turnover and a series of poor winters has hit the racing programme.



## Stranded punters champ at the bit

Sportswriter Alan Lee shared the long wait

THE well-bred and down-at-heel camped out together, united by their temporary homelessness, unable to return to transport and belongings. We sat at chipped desks, on chairs made for another generation, wearing our creased racing suits and hats with prickly, unwashed embarrassment as the hours passed. It was more than a day since the cancelled race and in the school set up like a refuge from the Blitz, with volunteers serving free tea, we waited for release from a most unsporting purgatory.

Like many stranded punters, I had battled my way to Aintree through the motorway misery inflicted by the IRA and then found helplessness at the same hands. There others who suffered more, like the man who spent the night in a hotel bath or another who slept rough by Liverpool docks. But by yesterday afternoon, the stoicism was wearing thin. Three Grand National jockeys had

walked the streets, still in racing boots and breeches but now dishevelled and unshaven, mothers queued querulously for public telephones, fretting for children back home. And many warm-hearted Liverpoolians opened their homes to the displaced and indisposed.

It had all been very British at first. Saturday's withdrawal was well ordered and good natured. The humour was black but the mood about as fraught as an office fire drill. They wouldn't bomb the National, would they? There were some cries of complaint from high-heeled women and some posturing from their pint-clutching partners. But then a Ghurka band, banished like the rest of us, struck up as they marched and the

crowd, unwilling to break up an annual party, danced their defiance. Dusk was falling before most of us accepted we would not be going home, that the police were not completing an operation but expanding it. The streets of unfashionable Aintree were full of confusion as thousands competed for food, drink, transport and telephones. Incongruously, in a newsagent's shop, the only queue was for lottery tickets.

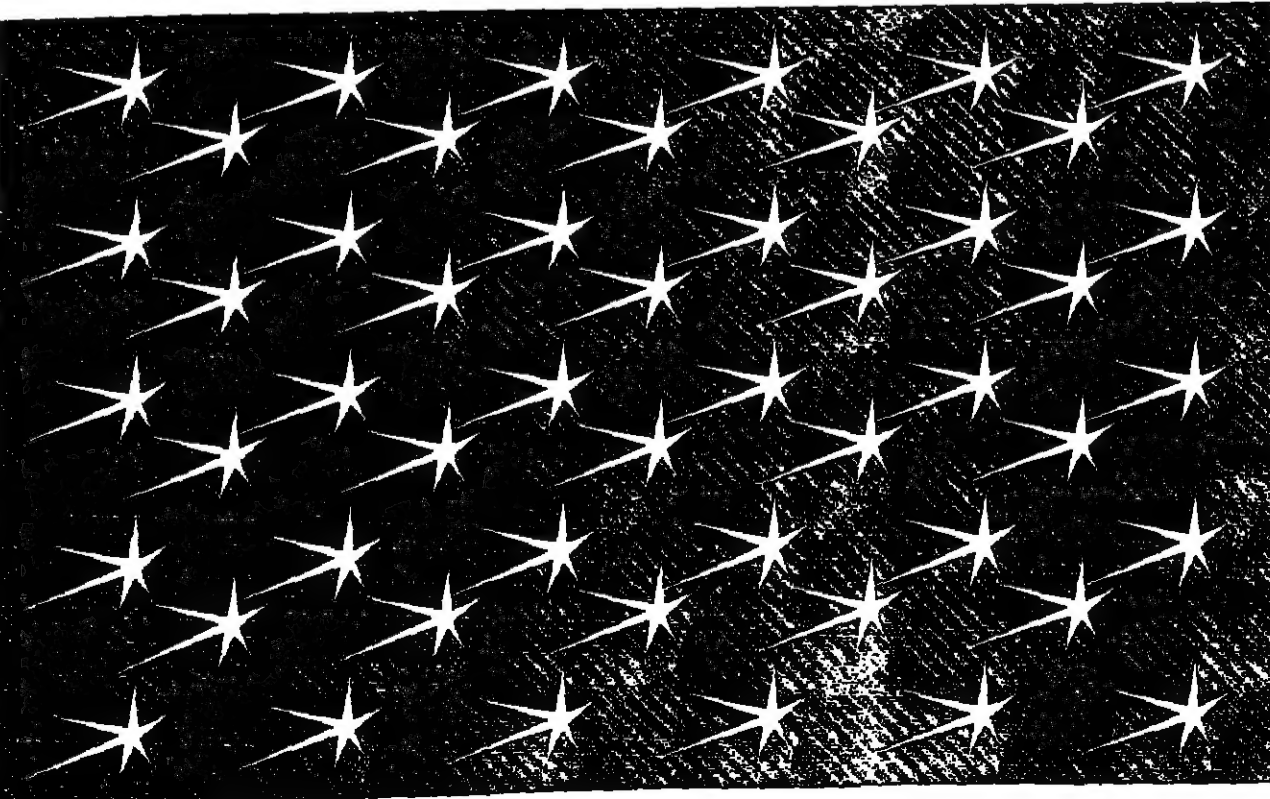
A sandwich board evangelist brandished his message, "Righteousness lifts a nation but sin is a disgrace to all". Two miles on, outside a motel where a receptionist was trying to clear her lobby of refugees, I met a woman who agreed. She was in her late seventies and had limped there from her Saturday shop near the course. "It's taken me three hours," she said. "And I'm supposed to be disabled. These people don't think of that, do they?"

## Delay upsets the runners

By RICHARD EVANS

THE outcome of the postponed race will hinge on how the likely 36 runners have coped with 48 hours of upheaval.

Nick Wingfield Digby, a Newmarket vet, said yesterday: "If their routine is broken, the horses are likely to suffer because their digestive system may be affected, particularly when they are in a strange environment eating strange food, or having their exercise regime drastically altered." Travel can also have a debilitating effect on some horses, who lose weight and fitness.



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# Churches ask for single bishop in leap of faith

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop" who would oversee all their members in east Cardiff.

The proposal, certain to arouse fierce opposition among those who cherish their hard-won Protestant independence, would mean the first such bishop in the world. He would be appointed as an assistant to the Anglican Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Rev Rowan Williams, but would provide oversight in an area of 50,000 people for the Church in Wales, Methodists, Presbyterians, covenanted Baptists and the United Reformed Church. The proposal will be put to church leaders this year.

Although the architects of the plan are optimistic, it is unlikely to meet with universal approval because of differences between the denominations over ministry and episcopal oversight.

Many Baptists and Presbyterians cherish their legacy of opposition to episcopal leadership, basing their arguments on biblical precedent. Many Anglicans, on the other hand, do not accept the ministry of those who have not been episcopally ordained.

The proposal will be debated this week by an episcopacy consultation of the World Council of Churches in Strasbourg. If successful in Wales, they would almost certainly be followed elsewhere in the world.

The bishop would have to be a man because the Anglicans in Wales have only recently voted for women priests and do not accept that women can be bishops. He would act as a focus of unity and oversight for the five denominations, carrying out confirmations



Abraham Williams said plan could end discord

and taking part in ordinations. Many Protestant churches are facing declining numbers and believe there is a new strength to be found in unity.

A paper outlining the scheme says the proposed area "has considerable mission potential and is considered by

the church leaders to be ripe for a strategic approach." The Rev Donald Knighton, chairman of the South West District of the Methodist Church, said: "In this area of east Cardiff there are so many ecumenical partnerships between the churches that they feel they need a leadership that is ecumenical rather than separate. This would be a breakthrough in the log jam in negotiations between episcopal and non-episcopal churches. This is very much a leap of faith, but we do have to take leaps of faith if we are going to be effective as churches."

The Rev Gethin Abraham-Williams, a Baptist minister in the area, said that many Baptist churches had made a covenant in an attempt to seek unity, but unity had not been achieved. The question of bishops was a main stumbling block. "If we would have a bishop in common, maybe that could be the answer."



Robert Hardy and a campaigner dressed for action at the battlefield yesterday

## Actor adds voice to fight for battlefield

By TIM JONES

ROBERT HARDY, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, appealed to the Government yesterday to stop a property developer building houses on an historic battlefield.

Hardy, the Battlefields Trust and other societies believe it is imperative that the planned development at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, should be halted. The Battle of Tewkesbury, on May 4, 1471, is regarded as having been decisive in ending the Wars of the Roses.

Hardy said he was strongly opposed to the plans by Bryant Homes Merica to build 62 houses on a part of the field known as the Gasons. "A battlefield is a very rare commodity in a way as important as cathedrals," he said. "They are charged with remembrance and electricity."

He hoped that everyone opposed to the scheme would protest to Tewkesbury council. "And if that fails, then John Gummer [the Environment Secretary] should intervene and save this historical site for the nation."

Joe Kent, the borough council leader, said there was no evidence the area where the houses could be built was part of the battlefield.

## Carey appeals for lottery funds

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will today appeal for National Lottery funding for nearly 170 country churches that want to repair their buildings and to run community projects. Representatives from the churches will meet in London today to rally support for £125 million Millennium Commission funding which has already been long-listed. The request

comes while many in the churches still have doubts about the ethics of accepting lottery cash.

But Dr George Carey said: "I hope very much that the Millennium Commission will wish to offer its support to this venture and make so much else possible by using the past to celebrate the anniversary of our Saviour's birth, and through this programme to enrich the future for millions of our rural people."

The money would pay for tourist centres, Internet web sites, playgroups, concert facilities and other community projects at isolated churches.

Dr Carey said: "Strong community life is an important contribution to health and happiness, particularly for the young, for families and the elderly. The possibility of using the often-spacious church buildings for good purposes in addition to worship offers a new vision of Christian worship."

## Villagers reluctant to see the light

By ROBIN YOUNG

SPARKS are flying between neighbours in two tiny seaside settlements over the introduction of electricity. After almost 150 years in darkness the villagers of Ethie Haven in Angus have decided to forsake gas lamps and driftwood stoves.

Less than half a mile away, there is resistance among the people of Corbie. They feel that electricity threatens their traditional way of life, and say the new poles carrying power to Ethie Haven ruin their views of Lunan Bay.

Ethie Haven, built as a fishing village in the 1850s, was bought up by Edinburgh professional people as fishing vessels outgrew the harbour. Comprising 14 stone cottages, hidden at the end of a two-mile farm track, "the Haen" became a popular summertime retreat.

By contrast, Corbie, a shanty town of wooden beach huts and abandoned caravans, was built in the 1920s. Like their neighbours, the "Corbies" have inherited their properties from their fathers and grand-

fathers and live there in summer and at weekends.

Dave Jackson, 46, believes that electricity will change the place for ever. He said: "We have retained a sense of community that seems to go when you introduce televisions, telephones and fax machines. I think electricity will inevitably change the character of the bay. The poles on the headland are disgraceful. They have spoilt the bay."

Joy Mathews adds that the cable is buried further on: "The Haeners paid the money to hide the cable from their own sight, but they would not pay extra to bury the lines across the headland."

At Ethie Haven, Bill Dickson, in his mid-70s, said: "I have been coming here since I was seven years old. Running water never changed us. Inside toilets never changed us. I do not see why electricity should change us."

"I can understand why the Corbies are upset about the poles, but it would have cost about six times as much to bury the cable."

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# Boy's skull cracked by concrete thrown at school coach

BY JOANNA BALE AND EMMA WILKINS

A BOY whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach was recovering in intensive care yesterday.

Ross Jeff, of West Bromwich, West Midlands, was hurt with his friend Richard Comery, both 14, as they were returning from a school skiing trip to Austria. The coach had just crossed the border into Belgium from Germany. Although Richard suffered leg injuries in the attack, he was well enough to return to his home in Great Bar, Birmingham, where he took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme walk yesterday.

Ross, who underwent a four-hour operation early on Saturday, is recovering at the Cizelle Hospital in Liège. His parents flew out on Saturday and were at his bedside yesterday. The hospital said that the boy was making a good recovery and could be well enough to be flown home within the next few days.

Tony Comery, Richard's father, said that most of the children in the party of 44 from Dartmouth High School, Sandwell, West Midlands, were asleep when the 11lb concrete slab was thrown on to their coach from a motorway bridge. It smashed through a skylight and hit Ross on the head, showering the other children with shards of glass.

Mr Comery, 46, whose son was treated for his leg injuries at the Herstal Hospital, near Liège, said: "Some youths threw a concrete brick and it went through the skylight of the coach. It bounced off Richard's leg and then hit Ross on the head."

"Many of the children were sleeping at the time and were showered with glass, but according to Richard they were remarkably calm. Richard is



Watton: drove coach on to hard shoulder

home now, but he is very concerned about Ross. He blames himself because he believes Ross would not have been so badly hurt if he had taken the full blow of the block." He said he insisted on going on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme walk.

Mr Comery said he had spoken to Ross's parents. "We heard last night that he is OK. He has undergone an operation on his skull to relieve some pressure. It is not life-threatening, but it is serious and we are all concerned about him."

Keith Marsh, the headmaster of Dartmouth High School, who was not on the trip, said the school was saddened by the attack. He said he had spoken to Ross's mother by telephone yesterday morning.

Keith Watton, the coach driver, said: "Richard was not too bad, he was hobbling about, but Ross was in a bad way. It was a nasty cut. Everything was quiet on the bus. The teachers managed to keep the children calm."

He added: "It could have been a lot worse. The concrete

slabs could have gone through the windscreen and knocked me out then we would have all been killed."

Mr Watton said: "I had taken over the driving about 40 minutes before. We were cruising along the three-lane motorway looking forward to the breakfast break when it happened. Most of the kids were asleep."

"The motorway was clear and I was going at about 55mph and had just overtaken a lorry and was driving in the slow lane when we approached the bridge."

"I saw the coach driver in front slam on his brakes so I knew something was wrong. Next thing you know I heard this loud bang."

"I just thought one of the side windows had gone through. I slammed on the brakes and pulled on to the hard shoulder. But when I turned round there was glass everywhere and these blocks of concrete all over the coach."

Belgian police said that the accident was caused by a foot-square concrete slab thrown from a bridge 115ft to 130ft above the motorway between Liège and Brussels at 5.30am. A police official said: "If the driver had been hit by the stone, the coach could have hit the barrier or overturned. It could have been a far more serious accident."

The spokesman said that they were treating the incident very seriously with 20 officers working on the case.

A Belgian lorry was slightly damaged by another slab and at least one more was thrown at a second coach. Witnesses said that they saw youths on the bridge at the time of the attack, but by the time police arrived they had disappeared. Rain prevented tracker dogs from picking up their trail, the police official said.



Francis Walker with his new guide dog. For nearly two years his wife was too upset to replace the previous one

## Owners find pet's passing harder to take than relative's death

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

VETS are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die. The loss of a dog or cat can be more devastating than the death of a friend or relative, the annual congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association was told at the weekend.

Janet Thomas, who spoke to delegates in Birmingham on bereavement counselling for pet owners, said that some could still be grieving years after the death. She knew of at least three clients who had committed suicide. On average, bereaved owners took six months to a year to come to terms with their loss.

"With the disappearance of the extended family, we are seeing more single and elderly people living on their own, sometimes not even knowing who their next-door neighbour is," Mrs Thomas said. "For such people a companion animal is often a lifeline, offering a kind of idealised human relationship."

Ms Thomas, a vet at Oldham, Lancashire, began studying the subject

after seeing men break down in her consulting rooms. "I found this difficult to handle," she said. "Yet these were men who probably would not have been so openly emotional about the death of another human being."

"This was something for which my veterinary training had not prepared me in any way. Bereavement counselling still has no place in the undergraduate curriculum at veterinary schools."

"The lack of any funeral procedure or other accepted ritual for formally marking the end of a pet's life, often with no grave or known resting-ground, deepens the sense of loss." Deciding to have a sick pet put down could be particularly traumatic. "I have heard clients use the word murder. Feelings of guilt can be profound and vets can cause huge distress by unintentionally insensitive or flippant-sounding remarks."

Vets could help by being good listeners. "A lot of it is simply not being embarrassed or shocked — for example, by people disclosing that they sleep with a dead pet's ashes under the pillow or

keep its body in the deep freeze."

Greta Walker, 71, was devastated when her blind husband's guidedog, a golden retriever called Ellis, had to be put down because of ill-health four years ago. It was 20 months before she could bring herself to get a replacement, even though her husband, Francis, badly needed one. "I cried an awful lot and felt deeply depressed," she said. "Just looking at a photograph, or meeting people in the street who asked me where Ellis was, would be enough to set me off."

She was helped by Maureen Hennis, one of eight voluntary bereavement counsellors working for Pro Dogs, a charity based at Aylesford, Kent. Mr and Mrs Walker now have a good relationship with a new guidedog, Lincoln.

Mrs Hennis said: "I get about five or six calls a week from people from all over the country. Having to put a sick animal to sleep is undoubtedly one of the most stressful situations. Owners can feel desperately guilty. I try to help them by getting them to accept euthanasia as their last act of love for their pets."

## Man on murder charge missing

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of murder was on the run last night after police officers failed to notice that he had not reported to them under his bail conditions for almost three months.

Two officers face disciplinary action over the disappearance of the man, who had been ordered to check in daily at Skipton police station in North Yorkshire.

The man was given bail last September, and was the only person reporting to Skipton police station. He last checked in on January 13, but was found when he failed to turn up for a doctor's appointment last month. The doctor informed his solicitor who alerted police at Skipton.

Judge Walsh, Recorder of Leeds, ordered Superintendent Ron Underhill, officer in charge at Skipton, to Leeds Crown Court to explain what had happened. He told the police officer: "I regard this as a serious matter. This was a man who was granted bail because the circumstances warranted it. I would have thought that if the police officers took their duties seriously — knowing that the man was on bail for murder — with strict conditions, as soon as he broke those reporting conditions they would have notified their superiors who would have notified the Crown Prosecution Service."

Judge Walsh directed that the suspect's identity or details of the case should not be disclosed in order to ensure a fair trial.

He added that the public should not be alarmed about the man's disappearance. "All I can say is that I profoundly hope that the police repair the damage, and speedily," he said.

Mr Underhill told the judge that he had no plausible explanation for what had happened.

## Hopes of dinosaur clone face extinction

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

HOPES of reconstructing dinosaurs from DNA preserved in amber are likely to remain science fiction, researchers at the Natural History Museum in London have shown. The method inspired the film *Jurassic Park*, in which scientists recreated the dinosaurs from fragments of DNA preserved in the stomachs of blood-sucking insects.

There have been claims that DNA has been recovered from insects tens of millions of years old preserved in amber, the fossilised resin of trees. But a team from the museum is soon to report that its efforts to repeat these observations have failed.

Taking precautions against contamination and using a range of methods, Dr Jeremy Austin and colleagues have tried to detect DNA from bees several thousand years old preserved in resin, and from bees 30 million years old preserved in the amber eventually produced by the resin. They will report in *Proceedings of the Royal Society* that the only DNA they have found is of fungal or human origin. No trace of the original bee DNA remains. Amber is permeable to gases and some liquids, making it unable to keep the DNA intact. The



Jurassic Park is still only science fiction

museum's result is in contrast with some widely-publicised claims from other researchers, including George Poinar of the University of California at Berkeley. The original inspiration for Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*. In 1993 Professor Poinar reported finding beetle DNA from a specimen 125 million years old. DNA has also been reported from a magnolia leaf 17 million years old, and from a termite 25 million years old.

With a technique called polymerase chain reaction, minute fragments of DNA can be multiplied until they reach detectable size. The trouble is that any trace of contamination, such as a flake of skin, is also multiplied and can produce a false result.

The museum's findings will disappoint many scientists, not because they expected to reconstruct dinosaurs, but because they hoped that studying ancient DNA would be useful in understanding relationships between living groups of animals.

## Greek snails in olive oil the long-life recipe



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE large southern Greek snail contains the most health-giving fats in just the correct proportions, and its regular consumption, after being cooked in olive oil, may be one of many factors that makes Cretans the longest-living people in Europe.

Doctors discussing 50 years of research into the Mediterranean diet have been told that the average family in Crete, where they are meeting, still eat snails cooked in olive oil three times a week.

In southern Greece olive oil is used plentifully in cooking, and olives are eaten with plenty of rough bread, a wide variety of green vegetables and fruits as well as fish, cheese, mutton and red wine.

During the Second World War, when rationing restricted people's choice of food, a marked reduction in heart disease in Europe was noted. In consequence, in 1947 scientists recruited 10,000 middle-aged men from 16 centres in seven countries to study the relationship between their food, lifestyle and health.

Medical theories are often rediscovered and one of Napoleon's doctors, Professor Corvisart, recommended a diet that is remarkably similar to the one being analysed in Crete this week. Corvisart not only praised the use of olive oil, suggested a reduction in animal fat and the avoidance of "too plentiful a table", but understood the importance of having the opportunity "to satisfy the natural affections" and the virtues of regular exercise.

Samuel Black, an early 19th-century Irish physician in Newry, Co Down, was much influenced by Corvisart's book after his friend, a Mr Carson, collapsed and died drinking chocolate. At his post-mortem examination

Dr Black was surprised to find that Mr Carson's coronary arteries were so calcified that they resembled the stem of a clay pipe. Thereafter, the arteries were prominently displayed in Dr Black's house and acted as a warning to his other friends and patients to follow his advice.

Alun Evans, of Queen's University, Belfast, continues to teach the importance of Dr Black's theories, now suitably modified, and lectured in Crete on the effect on health of the differences in lifestyle in northern and southern Europe.

Variations in diet and exercise interact with genetic factors and result in a death rate from heart disease four times greater in Northern Ireland than southern France. There is a fivefold greater likelihood of dying from coronary heart disease in North America or northern Europe than in the southern parts of Europe where the traditional Mediterranean diet is still taken.

The advantages of the liberal use of olive oil to prevent coronary heart disease and cardiac arrhythmias is increasingly well understood. Olive oil is a mono-unsaturated fat, avoiding the problems related to consumption of saturated fats, and it has the advantage that its use for thousands of years has failed to reveal any side-effects.

Professor Evans is keenly interested in the value to health of the natural antioxidants in the Mediterranean such as those found in olives and tomatoes.

The variety of vegetables and fruit eaten in southern Europe also helps to ensure good health: whereas a traditional northern European chooses from about 15 green vegetables, in Crete more than 100 different wild or cultivated plants are still eaten regularly.

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TUESDAY  
10 P  
TIMES  
SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2.  
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TUESDAY

10

SEE  
VOUCHER  
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PAGE 2.

TIMES

10p

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Brown plans  
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#### UNIVERSITIES

UNIVERSITIES  
The University of  
Oxford has announced  
that it will be raising  
its fees by 10% from  
next year. The  
University of Cambridge  
has also announced  
that it will be raising  
its fees by 10% from  
next year. The  
University of London  
has also announced  
that it will be raising  
its fees by 10% from  
next year.

#### RESEARCH

RESEARCH  
A new study has  
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#### BY JANE BULLOCK

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the plan to  
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minimum wage  
to £5 an hour.

#### PRE

#### BIGGER



# ELECTION 97

POLL DAY

-25

**'It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers'**

Nicholas Wapshott - page 11

■ One constituency where the election will end tonight - p10  
 ■ Constitution hogs Labour's limelight in Scotland. MICHAEL GOVE - p9  
 ■ Guide to election issues: foreign policy - p8

**'My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard'**

Mr Nice - page 11

## Brown plans to raise £122bn with sale of state assets

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday announced that he was preparing an extensive sell-off of state assets valued at up to £122 billion as Labour finally ditched its historic opposition to privatisation.

Mr Brown said that he would immediately set up a swift inventory of property, land, plan, machinery and other assets held by government departments to root out waste and inefficiency.

His aides also made clear that he would consider any privatisations, including

Channel Four, Parcelforce and other Royal Mail agencies, and the National Air Traffic Control system - sell-offs they have previously strongly opposed. London Underground is the only privatisation that would not be an option.

In a final break with the party's former commitment to nationalisation, Tony Blair will say to businessmen today: "Where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services - particularly where those services operate in a competitive market - then the

presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with market forces being encouraged to operate."

Mr Blair's speech in the City will underline not only his party's conversion, but his own. In 1986 he said: "Privatisation is destroying the idea of public service in Britain. The interests of consumers are being sacrificed on the altar of big business."

Labour's business manifesto, to be published this week, makes no bones about the Labour leadership's intention. As soon as Labour takes office there would be a comprehensive spending review, matched by a "thorough and speedy national inventory of the assets owned by central government. We will not hold assets that have no further use or allow the wasteful duplication of resources across departments. If there is no need for departments to hold property, land or other assets, they will be required to sell them."

Mr Brown, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, added: "I am certainly going to apply, in the iron grip that we will have on public spending and the use of public resources, a clear test. If it is of no use to the public sector, if there is duplication of resources, we will sort it out."

Mr Brown is already questioning why employment offices, social security offices and regional government offices coexist in some towns and cities. "We are sure that, as well as improving the efficiency with which assets are used and as well as reallocated within departments, we will also be able to release several billion pounds over the lifetime of the next Parliament," Mr Brown's spokesman said.

Labour has been working for the last eight months with a top accountancy firm to assess the use of assets within government departments. Labour sources made clear the review could be used to free resources for front line services, such as teachers and doctors. Aides also made clear that both the Health Department and the Ministry of Defence, which owns vast areas of land, could be the first targets.

But the proposals were sharply attacked by both Liberal Democrats and the Tories. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, doubted that the selling-off of assets to raise money "on the cheap" was in the interests of the taxpayer.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, claimed Labour was now in full retreat. "The revelation shows that our attacks on the £12 billion black hole at the heart of Labour's public expenditure plans have thrown Labour high command into total panic."

Mr Heseltine said Mr Blair's comments signalled the abandoning of "its historic and consistent opposition to privatisation". Mr Blair was "casting aside his principles like ballast from his sinking balloon".



John Major bids Baroness Thatcher farewell yesterday as she leaves Conservative Central Office in London

## Lady Thatcher pays tribute to Major's 'magnificent years'

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

BARONESS THATCHER delivered her strongest tribute to John Major yesterday, praising his "magnificent stewardship" of the past six years.

She told 300 Conservative candidates and MPs at Conservative Central Office in London that it was thanks to Mr Major and the Government "that we have such a high level of prosperity and a high reputation in the world". She said: "I am here to support him."

Lady Thatcher, who in private over the years has been less than enthusiastic about her successor, appeared determined to kill any suggestions that she would be happy if Tony Blair reached Downing Street. She spoke of a return to trade union "bully boys" and the handover of Parliament's powers to Brussels if Labour won power.

Lady Thatcher said that Britain's prosperity and its high reputation "didn't just happen". "We Conservatives made it happen. The Conservatives have convictions, fundamental beliefs to serve the people and to create a framework of law within which enterprise and responsibility can flourish."

Her warmth for Mr Major was clear. But it was plain that she was also motivated by a desire to protect her legacy. She said it was because of the Conservatives' beliefs that the party was able to cut taxation so that people kept more of their money to spend on their families.

She added: "We cut the power of the trade unions and most of the trade unionists were with us. It was only the bully boys who fought against it. We privatised industries because governments do not know how to run them. Only industry knows that. And we fought communism and together with the USA we brought it down. It was all because of our convictions, and we had no fellow travellers in the Labour Party."

She spoke of Labour's "conversion of convenience", but said that "whatever the soft words, Labour is still interventionist in its very psyche". She attacked Gordon Brown's plan to bring in a windfall tax

on the privatised utilities, describing it as "a tax on success", which would take away money that could be used for capital investment.

She described Mr Blair's plan to sign Britain up to the European Union Social Charter as socialism by the back door. "The Social Charter is a way of imposing the socialist model on this country. If there isn't socialism through the front door, it will come through the back door. We would suffer every single regulation that the European socialist bureaucracy would wish if Labour was allowed to get its way. Even now they are discussing how to increase majority voting and reduce the power of the veto."

Lady Thatcher added: "In the next three months the destiny of our country will be set for a decade or longer because of the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam. They will try to take away the veto; that is why we must see our Prime Minister John Major and our Government returned at this election, so that there can be no diminishing power of the nation state."

## Youth vote impressed by image above ability

By JEREMY LAURANCE

POLITICIANS seeking the youth vote should smarten their image instead of worrying about their manifestos, according to psychologists. Young voters rate integrity and charisma as the most important qualities in a political leader and place less value on their competence.

Professor Mark Pancer and his colleagues, of Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, say that personalities count for more than policies in an election. The researchers compared the attitudes of three groups of students from Canada, America and Britain to 15 national and international political and public figures. The students were asked to rate each figure on a set of 40 characteristics grouped into four categories of integrity, charisma, competence and strength.

The study, carried out in 1993, showed that John Major was ranked lower for charisma than any other national or international political or public figure. His score of 2.31 fell below that of Prince Charles at 2.67. The highest score awarded by the British voters, 3.59, was held jointly by President Clinton and the pop star Madonna.

On integrity, the highest rating from the British group went to John Smith, then leader of the Labour Party. Baroness Thatcher was rated highest on strength and competence, closely followed by Boris Yeltsin. The students were also asked to rate their overall impression of each leader or public figure on a "feeling thermometer" by giving them a score out of 100. The students were told that a score above 50 indicated warm feelings while below 50 indicated coolness.

British voters judged both national and world leaders more harshly than either their American or Canadian counterparts. No public figure scored over 50 in Britain compared with four who exceeded this score in both America and Canada.

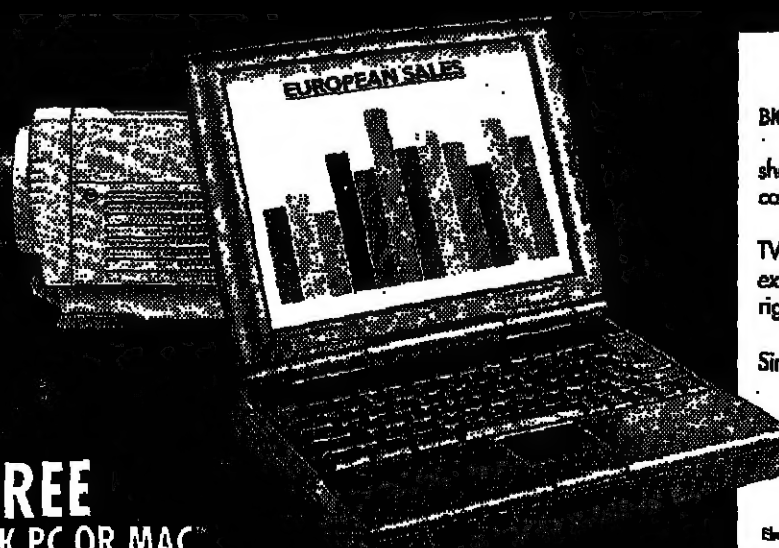
The findings, presented to the British Psychological Society's conference in Edinburgh yesterday, showed that integrity was the most important determinant of voters' overall feelings. Although Lady Thatcher scored highly on strength and competence, she was ranked lowest overall.

Professor Pancer said British and American voters appeared not to care whether their politicians could do the job, so long as they were honest. "There doesn't seem to be a very strong relationship between who they see as hard-working, capable and experienced, and who they rate highest overall. Integrity is the most important factor - being honest, caring, trustworthy, and open minded."

Professor Pancer said the findings showed that Mr Major should show leadership and put principles above cynicism. "There is a tremendous concentration on sleaze in this campaign which is a natural outgrowth of the concern with personality. Character attacks are effective. Mud sticks."

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# BALLOT 97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 14. Foreign policy

## Labour aims to outflank Tories on human rights

FOREIGN policy does not win elections. Unless there is a national humiliation or resounding triumph — Suez or the Falklands — voters rarely focus on the world beyond Britain. While Europe will be covered later in the campaign in an election guide of its own, today's guide focuses on relations with the rest of the world.

Beyond Europe there is little division between the parties. On the broad themes — relations with the United States, arms control, Nato, support for Eastern Europe, the United Nations, the global environment and the expansion of world trade — Labour policy differs only imperceptibly from that of the Conservatives.

Arguments over foreign policy tend to be within parties more than between them, creating unusual

alliances. The war in Bosnia was a classic example: support for the Muslims and calls for intervention against the Serbs united many on the Left with those on the Right. Other contentious regional issues — Cyprus, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Kashmir and Hong Kong — divide MPs into cross-party lobby groups bitterly at odds with each other.

There has been little debate about foreign policy in the past five years for two main reasons. Firstly, Douglas Hurd attempted to steer a bipartisan course and was able, with a patriotic image and the suggestion that he was a "safe pair of hands", to imply that government policy reflected a national consensus. Europe was the exception. Secondly, Labour gave low priority to a field so barren in opportunities for partisan advance.

Two of Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretaries, Gerald Kaufman and Jack Cunningham, were not party heavyweights and made little public impression.

For almost a year after his appointment, Robin Cook gave every indication that he did not want the job and was itching for a return to the cut-and-thrust of domestic politics. It is only in the past six months, with the apparent inevitability of his move to the Foreign Office, that he has shown mastery of the detail, especially on the imminent issues of Hong Kong and the EU inter-governmental conference.

Mr Hurd hoped to stimulate a national debate in 1995 with the sponsorship of an academic conference on Britain's place in the world. His aim was to identify British

diplomatic and global strengths, boost public support for peacekeeping, English language broadcasts and teaching and, more pointedly, send a message to the Treasury that the Foreign Office budget, one of the smallest in Whitehall, could not be cut further without harming Britain's political and commercial interests. But the conference produced little — largely because it was wholly uncontentious.

Labour supports the increasing use of British troops for peacekeeping, the goodwill generated by the British Council and the BBC, and the need for diplomacy to focus on export promotion. It is concentrating its campaign, therefore, on two areas where the Conservative

record is weakest: overseas development and human rights. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, has held the same job longer than any other minister, a forceful advocate for Africa and of tying aid to good government.

But under the Conservatives, overseas aid spending has fallen from 0.51 per cent of GNP to an all-time low of 0.29 per cent. Labour promises to raise this amount to 0.7 per cent, the target set by the United Nations. It also promises to create a separate Cabinet-level Ministry of International Development, and to target aid to the world's poorest nations. It criticises especially the funneling of aid to wealthier nations, and the Government's actions over the Pergau dam in Malaysia as an illegal linking of

aid to trade. On human rights, Labour also intends to take a more robust line. The Conservatives have strongly criticised abuses in Nigeria, Burma and China.

But Mr Cook has promised to recommend full oil sanctions against the military regime in Nigeria and intends to make human rights a more decisive yardstick in dealing with other countries. The obvious targets are the sheikhdoms of the Gulf, where Labour believes that Britain has turned a blind eye to abuses in order to safeguard lucrative contracts. Whether Labour would risk offending Saudi Arabia and jeopardising huge arms exports remains unclear.

In several areas Labour intends to outflank the Conservatives by emphasising support for causes

that have languished under the Tories. Mr Cook insists he will increase support for the British Council and the BBC World Service, though no budget figures are given. A more emotional issue is the Commonwealth. Labour believes that the Conservatives were so antagonised by Commonwealth opposition to British policy towards apartheid South Africa that they have since written off this 53-nation body.

Labour promises to do more to revive political and economic links, use the Commonwealth to advance Third World interests and show greater solidarity with Commonwealth members at the United Nations, also a body it accuses the Conservatives of neglecting.

Leading article, page xx

## Two views of Britain's place in the world

FOR the past 19 years Britain has consistently "punched above its weight", the Conservatives claim. The turning point, they insist, was the 1982 Falklands War. This not only won Britain global military and political credibility but also engaged Margaret Thatcher's interest in foreign affairs for the first time.

The claim is based largely on the extraordinary set of circumstances in the 1980s that gave Britain a unique influence in Washington at a time when West Germany had limited room for manoeuvre and France still dreamed of an independent world role.

Lady Thatcher forged a particularly close relationship with President Reagan — so much so that she was able to influence his decisions on arms control, East-West diplomacy and Nato strategy. The Gulf War reinforced this, with British participation vital. The strong links continued under President Bush and John Major. They ended abruptly with the election of President Clinton, who made little secret of his dislike of Mr Major.

After the cataclysmic collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, the world has been relatively peaceful. Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa; Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo accords; Cambodia negotiated a peace settlement; and democracy was consolidated in Latin America and much of Eastern Europe. But one intractable issue dominated British foreign policy and preoccupied the Western alliance: the war in Bosnia.

When fighting began in 1992, Britain's swift offer of troops and visible involvement in the humanitarian convoys established its vital role in the international response. Britain and France, with the largest troop contingents, began a period of mili-



tary co-operation, with lasting political and military implications. From the start, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, was determined that Britain would not be sucked into the hostilities: he sensed there was no public support for intervention, despite revulsion at the pictures of ethnic cleansing and Serb ill-treatment of Bosnian Muslims.

Denouncing the "something-must-be-done" clamour for an interventionist role for the United Nations troops, he was also adamant that any lifting of the arms embargo would only fuel more savage fighting and make the UN forces targets for Bosnian Serb fighters. He would not, he famously remarked, tolerate a "level killing field".

His stand, shared by the European allies — though opposed by Lady Thatcher, now out of office, who called for a sharp military response — brought Britain into conflict with the Clinton Administration, which wanted to arm the mainly Muslim Bosnian Government. One of the most serious transatlantic disputes since Suez developed. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, tried in vain to change European opinion; the rift soured relations between Britain and America and exacerbated reports that the Clinton Administration had not forgiven Mr Major his apparent backing for George Bush during the 1992 presidential election campaign.

Bosnia highlighted two other preoccupations of Western policy: establishing a co-operative relationship with Russia, and formulating a new role for Nato. Britain has taken a lead in encouraging market reform in Russia; for the Conservatives, the Russians' admiration for Lady Thatcher and their readiness to begin huge



Britain's swift offer of troops for Bosnia gave it a vital role in resolving the conflict, with lasting political implications

privatisation programmes were an opportunity to demonstrate Britain's pioneering experience. The Know-How Fund set a pattern as one of the more successful ways of helping post-communist economies. Labour supported the outreach to Russia.

All the main parties in Britain agree on the need to retain Nato as a linchpin of American involvement in Europe; all agree that the alliance must remain to prevent the re-emergence of separate national defence policies in the West. But neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats pushed for a public debate on Nato's changed military priorities; nor did they challenge the Government's unquestioning acceptance three years ago of the American call for Nato enlargement — despite strong private reservations within all parties at the time.

The Government claimed some credit for two other momentous changes since 1992: the end of apartheid and the tentative steps towards Middle East peace. The Thatcher governments always insisted that dialogue, rather than sanctions, would give Britain

greater influence in Pretoria; certainly the British Embassy was important in encouraging the contacts between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. Labour consistently called for tougher sanctions; but with the end of apartheid and the election of President Mandela the evidence was equivocal on which approach had been the most effective.

The Middle East, an area of traditional British influence, saw the signing of peace accords between Israel, under the Government of Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel subsequently withdrew from certain occupied territory, and its relations with Jordan were normalised. America and Norway played the leading outside roles in the peace process, but Britain maintained close contact with all sides and offered extensive aid and training to the Palestinians. In the Gulf, it remained one of the main supporters and trading partners of the traditional rulers and an implacable foe of any softening of sanctions against Iraq. Little of this was domestic-

ly contentious. But the Government was caught unaware by the sudden emergence of London as a haven for Islamic radicals expelled by conservative Arab governments, many of them closely tied to Britain. The case that caused greatest embarrassment was that of Muhammad al-Masari, a Saudi radical. In response to a furious Saudi reaction, the Home Office attempted, in vain, to deport him. The issue was seized on by Labour as an indication that Britain's policy towards the Gulf was too craven and too driven by arms exports.

The Government was equally embarrassed by the row over the Pergau Dam, a large aid project in Malaysia where the Government was accused of illegally using trade promotion money to finance the project. A court ruled against Mr Hurd; and Pergau became a symbol for the Opposition of a general Conservative mismanagement of overseas aid.

The Conservatives insist that "punching above our weight", in Mr Hurd's words, will remain valid as long as Britain retains its UN Security Council seat and readiness to

contribute forces to UN peacekeeping. Labour does not deny the advantage of a strong foreign policy, insisting that it too gave unanimous support to the Falklands and Gulf wars, to German unification, democracy in Russia and to all the areas where Britain's influence was crucial.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, however, accuse the Government of hypocrisy in trying to maintain a global foreign policy while cutting the Foreign Office budget. The past five years have been hard jobs: have been pared, embassies shut and funds reduced for aid, culture and overseas broadcasting.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats insist that Britain must cut its coat according to its cloth. There must be no more delusions that, isolated in Europe, it can play the bridge between America and the Continent, or maintain a global role without closer integration of foreign and defence policy with its European partners. The Tories disagree. As with so much, Britain's place in the world will be largely determined by Britain's place in Europe.

### THE POLITICIANS

#### MALCOLM RIFKIND

Age: 50  
Education: George Watson's College, University of Edinburgh.  
Family: married, one son, one daughter.  
Experience: QC, MP for Edinburgh Pentlands since 1974. Foreign Secretary since 95. Parliamentary Undersecretary at Scottish Office, 79-82; Minister of State at Foreign Office, 83-85; Scottish Secretary 86-90; Transport Secretary 90-92; Defence Secretary, 92-95. Politics: determinedly centrist, having moved to Right from earlier Euro-enthusi-



asm. Ambitious and now positioning himself as compromise party leader. Performance: knowledgeable, effective and able speaker. Sometimes aloof.

#### ROBIN COOK

Age: 51  
Education: Aberdeen Grammar, Royal High School, Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh.  
Family: married, two sons.  
Experience: MP for Livingston since 1983. MP for Edinburgh Central 74-83. Shadow Foreign Secretary since 94. Previously Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, 92-94; Shadow Health and Social Services Secretary 87-92. A member of Labour's National Executive Committee and its National Policy Forum. Politics: on Left but com-



mitted moderniser. Long-time rival of Gordon Brown. Performance: one of best orators in the House. Combative and partisan.

### WHAT THEY SAID

We have not been, and are not, willing to begin some form of military intervention which we judge useless or worse, simply because of pressures from the media. Douglas Hurd, on Bosnia, 1993

What we cannot do, we should not pretend to do. It is empty to pretend that we can impose peace with justice on every disorder or dispute outside our national borders. But what we decide to do, we must do well. John Major, 1993

We have our laws and we have a tradition of free speech, but what we do not have, and what we need, is any tradition of encouraging terrorism. Douglas Hurd on granting asylum to Islamic radicals, 1994

No substitute has been found for the energy which wells up through the nation state. Douglas Hurd, 1985

We must be active wherever our national interests are at stake, and they are at stake throughout the world. Malcolm Rifkind, 1985

The partnership of Europe and America working together delivers results, diplomatic and military. Any arrangements we devise for the future must reflect that. Malcolm Rifkind, 1986

We commit to peace support and humanitarian operations, even in places far from home, for simple and yet fundamental reasons. We are a civilised nation. Michael Portillo, 2 Jan 1997

### THE FACTS

□ Britain has 215 overseas embassies and consulates, compared with 240, Italy with 253 and France with 286.

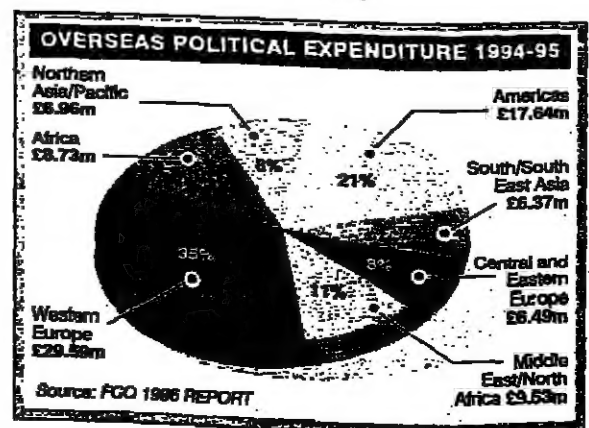
□ Running the Foreign Office costs £1.3 billion a year, half of which is spent on the British Council, the BBC World Service, the United Nations and peacekeeping.

□ Some 8.6 million British citizens live overseas, and 34 million travel abroad. Britain ranks fifth for international trade, and exports are worth more per head than those of the United States or Japan. Britain exports a quarter of all it produces.

□ Britain's stock of direct foreign investment is second only to America's, and is twice as large, relative to GDP, as Germany's or Japan's.

□ English is the native language of 350 million people. It has official status in 70 countries, and 60 per cent of all scientists speak it.

□ The estimate for the total number of applications for visas to enter Britain in 1996 was almost 1.5 million, an increase of more than 17 per cent over 1995. Some 95 per cent of these applications are for tourist visits or study.



### CONSERVATIVES



Hong Kong: backing for Chris Patten's democracy reforms. Warning to China that Britain will continue to monitor human rights and Chinese compliance with 1984 Joint Declaration after handover in July.

Peace-keeping: British successes to be emphasised, though opposition to new UN operations without finance or exit strategy.

Nato enlargement: strong support for enlargement, but emphasis on successful negotiation of Nato-Russia agreement.

Relations with America: bedrock of foreign policy. Will attempt to make relations less dependent on Nato with new free trade agreement and parliamentary assembly.

Aid and development: opposition to increase in multilateral aid at the expense of bilateral aid. Aid budget unlikely to increase: assistance to be tied to "good government". Will continue the Know-How Fund for former communist countries.

Human rights: support for Iraqi, Burmese and Nigerian opposition, but not emphasised in campaign. Wary about extending Nigerian sanctions, but no let-up in Iraq.

Diplomatic service: commitment to service at present level, though retrenchment likely in Africa and more trade promotion in Latin America and South East Asia. Will support British Council and BBC World Service, but search for private funding to make up for likely further cuts.

### LABOUR



Hong Kong: as strongly committed to human rights as the Tories. A Labour government would have responsibility for the last two months of British rule. Relations with China are seen as a challenge.

Peace-keeping: commitment to support UN operations with troops. But will insist that Britain should not take on more than its size allows. Promise to review arms exports.

Nato enlargement: Labour cautious, but strongly supports integration of Eastern Europe in EU.

Relations with America: Blair-Clinton chemistry likely to be better than present relations with Tories, with consequent close political links.

Aid and development: to have much higher profile, with Overseas Development Administration transformed into Department of International Development headed by Cabinet minister. Calls for new focus on poorest countries, and commitment to raise percentage of GNP spent on aid from 0.29 to 0.7, the UN target. Less attention to richer countries, and review of links between aid and trade.

Human Rights: main policy difference with Tories. Tougher line towards all rogue regimes. Will call for oil sanctions against Nigeria.

Diplomatic service: more emphasis on export promotion; top businessmen may be appointed ambassadors in growing markets. Commitment to boost British Council and BBC World Service, but no budget promises.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Hong Kong: policy little different from Labour's and Conservatives'. Urging all remaining colonies to seek regional co-operation.

Peace-keeping: activist role proposed, and more co-operation with European nations. Failure to intervene earlier in Bosnia condemned. Cuts proposed on arms exports, and long-term cut in defence budget.

Nato enlargement: lukewarm support and only on condition that it fits with EU enlargement. Seen as less important than reshaping Nato and OSCE. Greater role proposed for European Nato operations as part of common European foreign policy.

Relations with America: central, but less emphasis on working with Washington and more on co-operation with European partners.

Aid and development: important plank of policy. More co-ordination with EU projects. Strong support for Know-How Fund, and commitment to bringing British aid up to UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Greater targeting of aid to poorest countries.

Human rights: traditional strong interest. Support for democracy activists in East Timor, the Gulf, Nigeria etc. Emphasis on emancipation of women around the world.

Diplomatic service: attempt to restore some of the cuts in Foreign Office budget. Promise to support British Council and BBC World Service.

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# Scots Tories' travails provide portent of wider strife

IF YOU want to know what life will be like in Blair's Britain, read the newspaper reports from Scotland. As one Scots émigré remarked: "We have seen the future and it's tartan."

The election of a Labour government could see the dramas that have convulsed Scotland over the past fortnight played out across the United Kingdom. It is often said, north of the border, that a very different election campaign is going on, but when you talk to Scottish voters and watch politicians on the stump in Scotland, the sense is not so much of a foreign country but of the future.

A rump Conservative Party cannot unite behind an effective leader called Michael — in this case, Forsyth — because of vicious feuding. A dominant Labour Party faces mutiny on the left and unrest among activists. And the voters are denied a debate on bread-and-butter issues because the intricacies of devolution dominate the headlines.

When Tony Blair came to Glasgow on Friday to launch his party's Scottish manifesto, he expressed exasperation that the press conference was



Current political conflicts north of the border could turn out to be a dress rehearsal for a UK-wide drama, writes Michael Gove

dominated by constitutional matters. All but one of the journalists' questions turned on the powers of a body which does not yet exist — the Scottish parliament. The volume and vehemence of the questions, which quite unsettled Mr Blair, were evidence not of a strange obsession on the part of the Scottish media but rather of the journalistic instinct for the jugular. In a *Scotsman* interview, Mr Blair had appeared to compare a Scottish parliament to a parish council, and the pack scented blood. Some of the most direct questions came from representatives of the London media. They were not concerned with the intricacies of sovereignty but they did know when a politician appeared to be on weak ground.

Mr Blair had cause to feel aggrieved. The electorate in Scotland, like the rest of the

United Kingdom are more concerned with health, crime and the economy than the constitution.

However, the importance of the constitution in this election is a consequence of Labour policy. If devolution proposals had not been so vigorously promoted by Labour and then redefined to rid them of supposed weaknesses, there would be room to concentrate on other issues. But, given how uncomfortable Mr Blair seems with the issue, it is natural for journalists, and voters to ask why.

Mr Blair's annoyance at the crowding out of other issues is not likely to abate if Labour are elected. With pledges to legislate for referendums on devolution, the consequent long campaigns and then more legislation to actually introduce assemblies, constitutional reform

will dominate Labour's first year. Voters anxious to see progress in other areas will find parliamentary time dominated by arcane disputes about the West Lothian Question and the revised Gaschen-Barnett block grant formula.

One English Labour frontbencher commented even before last week's controversy: "We'll have new Labour MPs elected in marginals like Worcester keen to deliver for the people who voted for them and their time will be taken up legislating for Scotland and Wales."

It is not only in England that disquiet might surface. Some Scottish Labour MPs now remain disciplined and quiet but privately promise to agitate for maximum power for the Scottish parliament after the election.

The Tories foresee that defeat would offer the opportunity to divert the Labour government's attention from other matters. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade and MP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, has invited Labour to "make my day," by introducing complex devolution legislation in the



Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who clashed in the months preceding Margaret Thatcher's fall

first session of the new parliament.

But the Conservatives have their own troubles. The scandals that have afflicted the Scottish party with one MP resigning after disclosures of alcohol problems and a relationship with a woman, as well as their chairman quitting after an alleged homo-

sexual "indiscretion" have been depleted by some as a peculiarly Caledonian affair. The Scots Tories' problems are not, however, evidence of Celtic fondness for a feud. Rather, they are the consequence of minority status and the psychology of defeat.

The battles between the Thatcherite Forsyth and the

moderate Malcolm Rifkind in late 1989 and early 1990, were the prelude to the *Götterdämmerung* of Mrs Thatcher's rule. Now, according to one veteran of those conflicts, the current warfare in the Scots Tories, with colleagues briefing against each other, is a portent of what will happen to the party

across the United Kingdom in the event of defeat.

Some Tories see glimmers of hope. The same old hand believes that Mr Forsyth's ability to provide the Scots Tories with a degree of campaigning coherence could show the way for the rest of the party.

Former pro-devolution dissidents, such as the Scots Tory candidate in Dumfries, Struan Stevenson are now diehards for the Union. Once a party has faced defeat, the hope is that talented figures may be less likely to pursue freelance policies if given a strong lead from the top.

One Cabinet minister recently confided his fear that at a time when the United Kingdom had at last become a successful brand name in the increasingly competitive global market, the country was preparing to indulge in an unnecessary and introspective debate about restructuring.

His worries about introspection may apply with even greater force to his own party in the event of defeat. Variants of the internal battles now being fought on Scottish turf could consume the entire Conservative Party.

## Ashdown says spin is killing real issues

By POLLY NEWTON

LABOUR and Conservative policies are being dictated by "spin doctors" purely to woo certain groups of voters, according to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. Mr Ashdown will say in a speech tomorrow night that the beliefs of the two parties' leaders no longer count.

He will claim that the focus on a relatively small number of potential "switchers" — voters who supported the Conservatives in 1992 but may back Labour this time — effectively puts the spin doctors in charge. A source close to Mr Ashdown said last night that the Liberal Democrat leader believed vision and principles should be paramount in any political campaign. But, he said: "The key person now is the political 'mechanic' — the person behind the scenes who knows what issues have to be addressed to switch key voters. That has become a problem. Everyone has become so obsessed with what focus groups are telling them."

Although the Liberal Democrats have made no secret of their decision to concentrate their limited campaign resources on seats they believe they can win, a party spokesman said that was not the same as tailoring policies to particular sets of voters.

Mr Ashdown will argue that there is a danger of politicians ignoring serious issues, and large sections of society, because they are told by their spin doctors that they offer no electoral advantage.

He will say that the Liberal Democrats are prepared to look to the long term rather than attempting to achieve short-term gains by espousing policies dreamed up specifically to attract support from target groups.

Peter Stothard, page 20

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Labour MP forced out by illness

Labour MP William McKelvey, 62, has announced he will not be standing for re-election to the Kilmarnock and Loudoun seat in Ayrshire. He confirmed yesterday that a sudden health problem had persuaded him reluctantly to stand down.

He is thought to have been taken ill while canvassing last Wednesday. The constituency is a target seat for the Scottish National Party. Mr McKelvey saw Labour's majority halved by the SNP to just under 7,000 in 1992.

### Game target

Owners of shooting and fishing estates, including the Queen, could be affected by new taxes under a Labour government. The party is considering reintroducing sporting rates — duties on game, stags and fish shot or caught on their land — across Britain. The move would be worth £10 million to the Treasury.

### Knighthood row

Sir Michael Grylls, who is not seeking re-election as MP for Surrey North West, denied he acted improperly by seeking a knighthood for Jeffrey Whalley, a major donor to the Tory party. He did so at the request of a lobbyist, Derek Laud. Sir Michael has admitted misleading Parliament over his payments from Ian Greer.

### Dealers warned

This could be the first general election in which City traders who spread false rumours about opinion poll results are detected and prosecuted. Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, says it is "outrageous" that the markets have been manipulated in previous elections, and believes the technology exists to locate the source of rumours.

## Jobs report timing upsets churchmen

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Anglican church leaders are concerned that a sensitive church inquiry into unemployment has been timed deliberately to create maximum impact in the election campaign.

The report, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, to be published tomorrow by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland as a result of an 18-month inquiry led by the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, is a damaging attack on 18 years of Conservative rule. It calls for a statutory minimum wage and negotiating rights for trade unions.

But, although Christian socialist in tone, it also contains criticisms of the Labour Party's reluctance to embrace the harsh reality of higher taxation if public services are to be improved. According to one source, some church leaders are annoyed at the timing of the report because of the impact it will have on the election campaign. "It is a theological reflection on urban problems, and particularly on

unemployment, but there are no easy answers to these," said the source.

Although an October publication date had been considered, April was chosen because it was felt that it would result in maximum publicity. The report, backed by leaders of the 12 main denominations in Britain, has been strongly influenced by Church Action on Poverty, an ecumenical pressure group which recruited long-term unemployed people and submitted a lengthy paper based on their discussions.

Niall Cooper, national co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty, said: "It is critical of all political parties. None is seriously addressing the issue of unemployment. They are more concerned with tax reductions. The report will talk about taxation as a positive social good."

Sponsors include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey and Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

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# Tories accuse Labour of five serious U-turns since start of campaign

CHRIS HARRIS

ROBIN COOK's hardening of Labour's position on a single European currency is the latest campaign shift by the party, which was accused at the weekend of making policy on the hoof. Labour also confirmed yesterday that key concessions promised to the unions were being dropped and that Gordon Brown is considering the privatisation of assets, land and buildings worth millions of pounds.

Tony Blair will tell the City today: "I believe that where there is no overriding reason for preferring public provision of goods and services then the assumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector."

The Tories yesterday accused Labour of changing its policies, alleging that it had made five distinct policy U-turns since the campaign began. Here are the claims

Philip Webster gives his assessment of the claims made by the Tories yesterday that Labour has made five separate policy reversals since the start of the campaign

and our assessment of the extent of the shift, if any.

On privatisation, the Tories claim that after years of attacking the policy Labour has now embraced it as a way of finding money to fill the "black hole" in its finances. There was nothing in the manifesto about it.

While the revision of Clause 4 saw Labour embracing the market and the private sector, it was only recently, when it emerged that Gordon Brown was considering selling the Tate, that the idea of Labour being prepared to countenance privatisation emerged.

Since the "black hole" was identified specific assets have been mentioned for the first time — Parcellforce, Channel 4, the Air Traffic Control System — even though the transport spokesman Andrew Smith said last year "our air is not for sale" and recent policy document has committed Labour to keeping Channel 4 in the public sector. Verdict: a fairly comprehensive U-turn.

On Scotland the Tories say that Labour, having decided to give the Scots their Parliament and tax-varying powers, now say that it will not be able to put up taxes for five years.

Labour has already watered down devolution by insisting on a referendum on tax-raising. When *The Times* reported it would not be able to raise taxes for a Parliament this was denied. Mr Blair confirmed it on Friday, although, to be fair, the pledge was in the Scottish Labour manifesto published on the same day. Verdict: U-turn, but it was already under way.

On the unions the Tories say that Mr Blair has gone back on earlier promises to give the unions new rights.

Mr Blair is now saying that he cannot guarantee legislation on union recognition in his first year; and that he will not give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers, nor fulfil promises to reduce from two years to six months the time before which they claim unfair dismissal. Verdict: substantial climbdown.

On the single currency, the Tories allege that Robin Cook, having said there were "formi-



Tony Blair: accused on privatisation, Scotland, unions, EMU and terrorism

dable obstacles" in the way of first-wave membership under Labour, has now made a "gaffe" suggesting that entry would be unlikely for a parliament.

Far from being a gaffe this was a deliberate move by Mr Cook and Mr Blair to steal a march on the Tories. If entry cannot go ahead in 1999 it

would be difficult for it to do so in 2000 or 2001, and Mr Cook was stating the obvious. Verdict: clever repositioning.

On terrorism the Tories claim simply that Labour cannot be trusted. Jack Straw is accused of saying Labour would "fully" operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, yet these were the powers Labour

had voted against year after year.

Mr Straw's position has not changed. He said there were doubts about the use of extradition orders and judicial involvement over detention orders, but that Labour would continue to operate the PTA as it had in government before. Verdict: no real U-turn.

## Blair drops three key pledges on workers

TONY BLAIR has backed down from three key policy pledges on workers' rights which he had given trade unions over the past year (Jill Sherman writes).

The unions have contributed roughly £5 million to the party's election fund this year but Mr Blair has made clear that he will not bow to their demands.

He has said that a pledge on union recognition was not a priority and would not be included in Labour's first Queen's Speech. Officials now say that it was more likely to be included in the second year.

Mr Blair also made clear that there would be a

third party, headed by a judge, to adjudicate when employers could not agree with workers on which sections of the workforce to ballot. He went further this weekend and ditched a pledge to give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers and to allow workers to claim unfair dismissal after six months of employment rather than the present two years.

His U-turn on part-time workers follows a speech to the TUC in September 1995, in which he said: "With Labour, they would be entitled to the same fair treatment as full-time employees."

## What the Shadow Cabinet has said on privatisation

Tony Blair: "Public utilities like Telecom and gas and essential industries such as British Airways and Rolls-Royce were sold off by the Tories in the closest thing, postwar, to political corruption. What we all owned was taken away from us, flogged off at a cheap price to win votes, and the proceeds used to fund tax cuts. In fact it was a unique form of corruption, since we were bribed with our own money." — *News on Sunday*, November 1, 1997

notion that everything's got to be shoved into the private sector. There are decent public services and they should be kept as public services." — *A 100 Women*, ITV, July 10, 1994

Gordon Brown: "Privatisation has been a costly experience whose benefits have been at best dubious. The losers have been

the tax payers, the winners undisputedly the big institutions in the City and the top management of private companies." — Writing in 1989 on the electricity privatisations

Robin Cook: "We have a clear commitment to restore public ownership of the coal

industry." — addressing the Commons, March 23, 1994

Andrew Smith (Transport)

"The Tories have dreamt up a new scheme to privatise the air. They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Control service... let me warn the Transport Secretary: Labour will do everything to block this self-off. Our air is not for sale." — Labour conference, 1996

Government could even consider privatising the channel and thus jeopardising this resource. Labour will retain Channel Four as a public service broadcaster." — *Leading Britain into the Future*, Labour policy document, 1996

The current Labour position as described by an aide of Mr Brown yesterday:

"We will look at everything on a practical basis, not from an ideological point of view."

## Hard slog for Pontefract 'parachute brigade'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IN Pontefract and Castleford the general election ends tonight. One of five hopefuls will win the nomination for the Labour candidature and celebrate the start of a job for life.

This former mining constituency, which Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse won with a majority of 23,495 at the last election, is a glittering prize to attract any aspiring Labour MP. But the intensity of the fight to secure the nomination for the seat and the long shadow that the party leader has cast over the affair has left the local community bemused and angered.

The bemusement started with the last-minute decision by Sir Geoffrey, a former miner and a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons to stand down. Earlier he had furiously denied talk that he would move aside to let the Tory defector Alan Howarth find a safe haven. Then, when

Mr Howarth clinched another seat, he did step down.

He referred to his advancing years — he is 71 — and a slight medical complaint, but constituents were amazed. He told them: "I have informed Tony Blair of my decision and have insisted there is still time for my constituency party to be allowed to choose their next candidate from a suitable shortlist with local members being given the opportunity to be considered. This will mean a ballot of local members will choose the next candidate. If I had not been given that assurance, I would have battled on."

The first smolderings of anger came when Labour's national executive announced that the pressure of time meant that it would have to draw up the shortlist from which the constituency would choose a candidate. Rumours abound-

ed that Jack Dromey, husband of Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Services Secretary, and a senior officer with the Transport and General Workers' Union, was to be "parachuted" into the seat by the leadership.

In the end neither he nor Bryan Davies, whose Oldham Central and Royston seat disappeared under boundary changes, made the shortlist. But when local party members saw the list tempers flared. Despite plenty of contenders, not one local constituent had made the last five. Two on the list were from elsewhere in Yorkshire, but that makes them almost as foreign as anyone else in this part of the world. The other three chosen

were from London: two were rising Blairite stars.

Straight away the candidates faced resentment. "Clearly the constituency party would have liked to have had at least one person with local credentials. That has not happened and there are some concerns at that," Andy Wood, chairman of the constituency party, said.

The bad feeling was exacerbated by the fact that a number of those who will be listening hard to the five candidates tonight and then casting votes are local men, including Mr Wood, who had put themselves forward for the shortlist. However, they found themselves rejected by the national executive.

The London candidates have faced the most suspicion and scrutiny. One senior local party official said he was doubtful of the chances of Hilary Benn, the son of Tony Benn and an Ealing councillor, Derek Scott, an economic adviser to Tony Blair, and Yvette Cooper, a newspaper economics correspondent who

has worked for John Smith and Gordon Brown. The official said: "I think it will be very difficult for them, there is no question of that. The local party clearly has great affinity with local candidates. There are proud traditions here." He added: There is great disappointment that these won't be continued."



Three hopefuls: John Harman, left, a councillor, Yvette Cooper, of the "Millbank tendency", and Hilary Benn, son of Tony

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# Major denies he is dragging debate 'into the gutter'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Prime Minister denied charges yesterday that he was running a personal campaign against Tony Blair after the first "dirty tricks" row of the election surfaced over the weekend.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, led a welter of complaints from Labour figures claiming that the Tories were "descending into the gutter" with their claims to journalists that Mr Blair was cracking under the strain, that he had been "perspiring heavily" before important interviews last week and even that he may have been wearing an earpiece during his manifesto launch so that he could be prompted in his reply to questions.

A Sunday newspaper interview in which John Major accused Mr Blair of "slithering and squirming" from detailed interrogation was also cited.

But it was Michael Howard's criticism, for the second time in the campaign, of Labour's attitude to terrorism — the day after the IRA wrecked the Grand National — that caused the most outrage in Labour ranks.

It prompted Labour to disclose the confidential Home Office memorandum governing the response of ministers and their shadows to terrorist events: pointing out that it should be limited to the voicing of revulsion, sympathy for the victims and the authorities' determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Jack Straw, Mr Howard's Labour shadow, had said earlier that a Labour government

would continue to operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, although the party had doubts about the use of exclusion orders and judicial involvement in detention orders. He said: "We operated it when we were in government and we will operate it again."

That prompted the Home Secretary to say that Labour could not be trusted on terrorism.

## THE TORY CAMPAIGN

ism. Mr Howard said: "One day Marjorie Mowlem (the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary) says Sinn Féin could be invited to talks within weeks of a Labour government. Today Jack Straw contradicts her and in the same breath he says that a Labour government would fully operate the powers of the [Prevention of Terrorism Act]. Yet these are the very powers that Labour have voted against year after year."

Labour said that Mr Howard had broken the bipartisan agreement under the pressure of the election campaign.

Mr Brown said: "I think that all decent people will regret the fact that when we should be standing shoulder-to-shoulder, when there should be an all-party consensus to fight terrorism, Michael Howard has degenerated into making personalised and inaccurate comments about the Labour Party."

Appearing on *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, Mr Major rejected claims that he had launched a personal attack on

Mr Blair and said that he was focusing on policy areas and the Labour leaders' refusal to answer questions on them or to debate them with him.

The Prime Minister said that he wanted to debate the real issues and to get away from "sloganising", adding: "One of the things I most loathe about politics these days is that it is politics by soundbite."

Sources close to Mr Blair, however, said that the Tories were trying to "take out Tony" because all the early polling material suggested that he was the key positive issue of the campaign.

They said: "Tony is trusted because he said what he would do to the Labour Party and he has done it. John Major is not trusted because he said he would not raise taxes and he has done so." The sources added: "If they want to fight the election on trust, that is fine by us."

## 'Mr Nice' lights up Norwich campaign

Sleaze holds no fears for former cannabis smuggler, writes Michael Horsnell

OTHER politicians may blanch at the mention of the word, but sleaze is the one factor that the aspiring MP Howard Marks has nothing to worry about during the election campaign.

Mr Marks, once the most wanted cannabis smuggler in the world, is standing as an independent in both the Norwich constituencies — North and South — on an anti-prohibition ticket.

"My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard," he said yesterday. "Sleaze is of no consequence to me. In fact the more allegations they make against me, the better."

Mr Marks, sustained from the spring sunshine of Major, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and three of his four children, wants to legalise cannabis. He says prohibition leaves its supply in the hands of profiteers and criminalises the young. He should know, having run a multimillion-pound empire and been sentenced to 25 years in America for racketeering.

Mr Marks, who was re-



Howard Marks campaigning in Norwich in the shadow of a cannabis leaf emblem

leased two years ago after serving less than seven years of his sentence, confesses to having made "a few million" from importing up to 50 tonnes of cannabis at a time from Pakistan, Thailand and the Far East into Europe and

America. He smokes cannabis daily. "Cannabis makes you feel better," he said.

He flew into Norwich to set up his campaign headquarters in the backstreet emporium, Paradox Delights, run by his agent Derek Williams.

There, everything from hemp oil hair conditioner to bars of high energy New Earth seed bars is sold to people who enjoy "herbal highs".

Mr Marks has fond memories of Norwich. It was here that he bought a false pass-

port in the name of Donald Nice, now deceased, and used it as one of his 43 aliases. He used *Mr Nice* as the title of his autobiography, published last year.

Norwich, more importantly, is the base of the Campaign to Legalise Cannabis International, which is backing him in his fifth anniversary year in his single-issue fight for a Parliamentary seat. Ladbroke's is offering 10,000-1 against his election, odds he regards as generous.

"Essentially, my aim is to prevent criminalising youth and messing up their careers by putting them in prison," he said. "But it is also a question of civil liberty to be able to take cannabis. It is my right to do what I want as long it doesn't harm anyone else. It is also for people suffering from various medical conditions for which doctors would like to prescribe cannabis but are being denied." He is convinced that cannabis will be legalised one day. "But I'm standing for Parliament because I'm in a bit of a rush."

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## Frost withers into a fisher of soundbites

When the late Peter Cook was asked whether he had any regrets, he said yes, he had once saved David Frost from drowning. Well, yesterday it was Frost's turn to throw out a lifeline morning when John Major sat on his sofa and answered a few soft questions. It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers in Britain. It was he who attracted opprobrium 30 years ago for conducting "trials by television". Even before the police had caught up with the criminal, there was the young Frost calling the fraudster before a studio audience jury, and asking them what were then thought impertinent questions designed to make the crook incriminate himself.

We all grow old and more mellow, and Frost has long since hung up his crusader's cape in favour of cosy chats with the rich and famous. There is something unsettling about the complicity with which, on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, he now co-operates with politicians, providing them with the chance to try out a few soundbites for the day's news bulletins in exchange for a croissant and a glass of orange juice.

Frost, too, benefits from this arrangement as he has a show which few watch but which has a reputation for getting the stories, albeit "stories" cooked up for the occasion. I doubt there is conferring between the two sides because none is necessary: Frost fishes for the soundbite and the politicians hook their cod on the line.

Yesterday, after touching on the Grand National, Frost asked Major whether the election was becoming more personal and abusive. "Heaven forbid that exchanges should get personal," said the pious PM. So no soundbite there. Then, after Frost rephrased the question, Major came out with this most quotable of quotes: "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster in this country, could follow Conservative policies. I do not think it is in the instinct of the beast."



TV WATCH  
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

that there had been 22 Tory tax increases, but the reply was too long-winded. Frost even lobbed this softest of soft balls, almost pleading for a quote to last the day: "What would you say is your strongest slogan?" Major missed. "I am not a sloganising politician."

Then, after a lengthy defence of the Government's policy on the European Union, Major came out with this: "Their manifesto is falling apart before our eyes."

Then: "A manifesto that has taken years to produce has taken days to fall to pieces." *Voilà!* Two bites in the bag and Frost, knowing that anything now would be a bonus, was willing to try some rougher questions.

What mistakes had Major made? How would he mark himself out of ten? Would he be visiting Neil Hamilton's constituency? Did he consider himself the underdog? Had he talked to Margaret Thatcher about Rupert Murdoch about which party *The Sun* would support? Major wasn't going to fall for any of them. Why should he? He had said all he needed to, and was playing for time.

At the end of the programme there was a news bulletin. "On this programme the Prime Minister returned to the subject of trust." And there was our old friend, "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster in this country, could follow Conservative policies. I do not think it is in the instinct of the beast." Frost cast his line in other directions. He asked if the common view that it was time for a change made any sense, but Major said nothing of interest. Then he asked how Major would answer the Labour charge

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Mr Lowes: Ed  
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02: Call Rans

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# Federal US faces war with 'Army of God'

By TOM RHODES

A GROUP claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government in the run-up to the joint anniversary of the Waco siege and the Oklahoma City bombing in two weeks time.

In a letter received by two television stations in Atlanta, an organisation known as the Army of God said it was responsible for the unsolved bombings, injuring a total of 12 people, outside an abortion clinic and a gay club in the city earlier this year.

Although the message denied any involvement in the blast that resulted in the deaths of two people at the Atlanta Olympics last year, the letter mentioned the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, in 1993 in which 80 cult members died.

It threatened to mount attacks on "facilities that murder children" and on "sodomites" but, of most concern to the FBI, officials said the letter promised "total war on the so-called federal Government and death to the New World Order".

The FBI and other government agencies said security was being increased through-

out the Southern city for fear that the group might target Freaknik, the annual black student festival which is being held in Atlanta over the weekend which coincides with the Waco and Oklahoma anniversaries on April 19.

Individuals linked to the Army of God, a name related to an underground manual on terrorist acts against abortion clinics, have been associated with a spate of attacks over the last two decades.

But this is the first time a person claiming to represent the group has made reference to the federal Government. Bobby Browning, an official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, yesterday said agents were being placed on high alert in Atlanta because the letter had indicated its next target might not be empty.

"We're asking employees to be on the lookout," he said. "We're sharing ideas on what to look for, and we have also set up response protocol, should something occur."

The Waco siege provoked a growing movement of disaffection towards the American Government and resulted, exactly two years after the conflagration, in the bombing at Oklahoma City in which 168 people, including 19 children, were killed.

Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bomb, is currently standing trial in Denver on murder and conspiracy charges. Although his case has stagnated in the jury selection phase, which could take weeks to conclude, the trial has only heightened tension among militia groups and other anti-Washington activists in the run-up to the anniversary.

Security is also being tightened at all government facilities throughout the United States in preparation for what has been named Militia Day.



An artist's impression of McVeigh in court

## Chairman of the Fed seals new merger

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "second most powerful" and normally most cautious man, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, bought into the marriage market yesterday.

Mr Greenspan, 71, wed his long-term friend, Andrea Mitchell, 50, a prominent television reporter. The couple exchanged vows to seal the merger at a ceremony in Virginia attended by about 75 friends.

In some ways it was a surprising match. Mr Greenspan's donnish figure contrasting with blonde Miss Mitchell's hair gel, sparkling earrings and blazing-eyed television ambition.

In keeping with Mr Greenspan's grasp of the deadpan, the union was gazetted with a sober listing in yesterday's *New York Times* wedding page, where columns are normally the domain of Manhattan's socially precise Lady Wishforts and their cushioned progeny.

There, alongside the Epsteins and Bleusteins and Leibowitzes, was the announcement that romance had claimed the man whose merest throat clearance can shake the world's stock markets. "The bridegroom" was described as the son of the late Rose Goldsmith and the late Herbert Greenspan. "He has been the Federal Reserve chairman since 1987," it was noted.

The marriage has been one of the few reasons for smiles on Wall Street in recent days, as the Dow Jones index has lost most of the gains it made earlier this year.

The main culprit for those price falls, if you listen to the "bells", has been the "bearish" Mr Greenspan, who has repeatedly warned investors that the market is more than ripe. Stockholders will be hoping that when he returns to his office this morning — nothing so irrational as a honeymoon is being taken — Mr Greenspan will view life as an altogether sunnier pastime. It is not, however, a mood shift on which to bet the ranch.

## Recycling myth sent to urban junkyard

By TOM RHODES

THE recycling of discarded materials, one of the great urban myths of America's green revolution, has been debunked as an economic disaster. Americans spend hours sorting their rubbish into plastics, aluminium, glass and newspaper for separate collection, and baffle those unwilling to do so.

But a decision by Washington DC to suspend its programme has been welcomed by experts who say recycling is little more than a costly political ruse with no financial return. Marion Barry, Mayor of the near-bankrupt federal capital, has said his proposal will save \$2.5 million (£1.5 million a year).

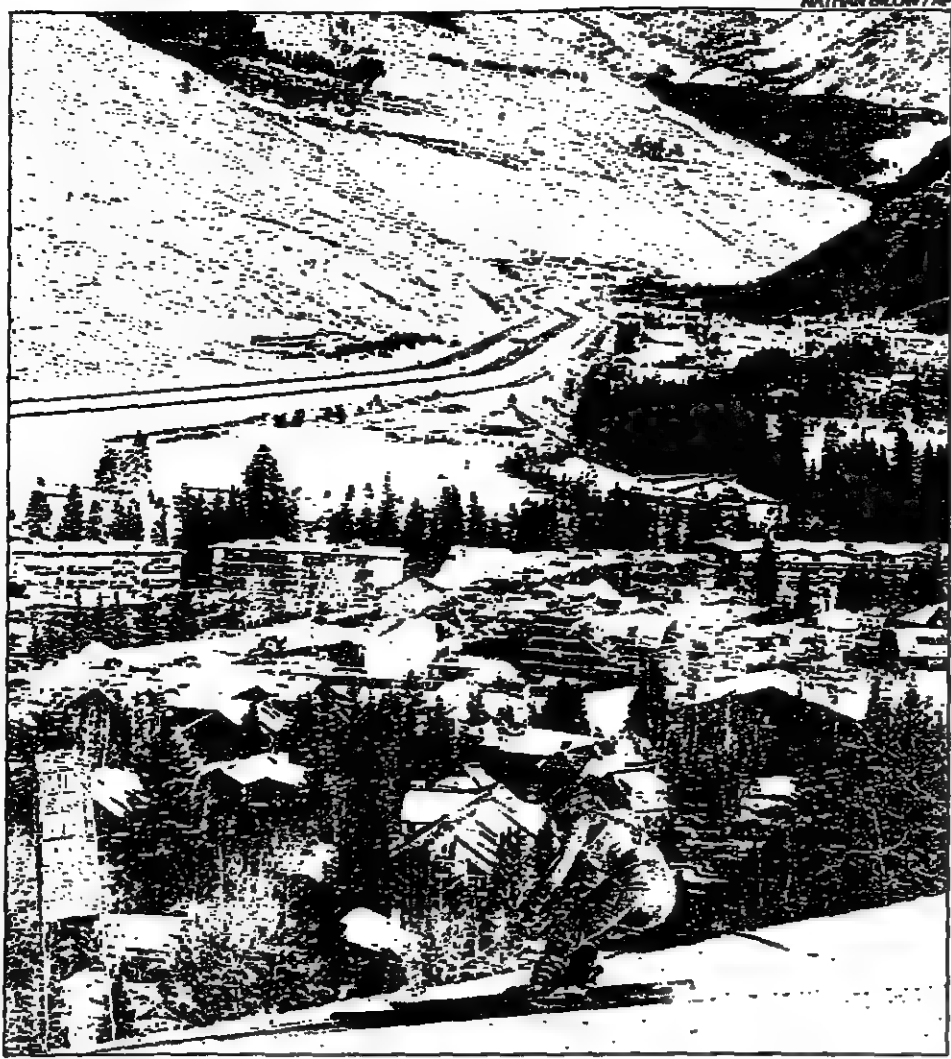
Although yesterday he faced a resolution from his own city council demanding the immediate reinstatement of recycling, Mr Barry found unlikely allies on Wall Street.

"Washington has started the ball rolling," said Michael Hoffman, a garbage analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. "Ask any American what happens to their garbage or what it costs and they will have no idea. Politicians have been disingenuous about telling the public the truth: the emperor has no clothes." Mr Hoffman said the recycling programme in Washington cost \$200 a tonne while rubbish collection and disposal should amount to little more than \$25.

While commercial programmes remained viable, he said most cities would soon realise that residential recycling merely increased the cost to the taxpayer. "It is of zero social value if you are losing that much money," he said. "It would be much easier to either burn the garbage or landfill it."

Rubbish has a market value. And while two years ago local authorities were receiving \$150 per tonne of recycled newspapers, they must now pay pulp mills \$30 a tonne for collection. Plastic bottles, worth 22 cents a pound last year, are now valued at just five cents.

Leading article, page 21



Vail's pristine slopes have hosted the world skiing championships twice in ten years

## Super-chic ski resort 'sliding downmarket'

FROM TOM RHODES IN VAIL, COLORADO

THE world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, who claim its new owners are turning the American resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park.

Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland, threatening livelihoods and sacrificing the traditionally chic atmosphere for cheap mass marketing.

The grande dame of the Rockies, Vail has always attracted far larger numbers than Aspen, its Colorado sister whose combination of culture and cachet has tended to lure a more famous clientele of Hollywood types, sports personalities and tycoons.

Vail, nevertheless, has offered stiff competition as the most popular American resort, a skiing haven for America's upper-middle classes and, because of historical ties to Colorado, a holiday holthole for senior Mexican government members. Many industry barons, including Ross Perot, the former presidential candidate, own houses in and

around the village that was founded by a small band of enthusiasts in the early 1960s.

Like Aspen, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this summer, Vail has prided itself on being a distinct community. Its hills have twice hosted the world skiing championships in ten years. Its slopes are said to be America's best-groomed.

Two months ago, Vail Resorts went public, merged with the nearby skiing areas of Breckenridge and Key-

Austrian father, Josef, and British mother, Anne, are among the founders — and for more than 25 years ran the Vail Village Inn — said: "They are concentrating so much at the lower end of the market, strip-mining this place and driving people away. I do not want to see the grande dame of the Rockies become the great whore of Colorado skiing."

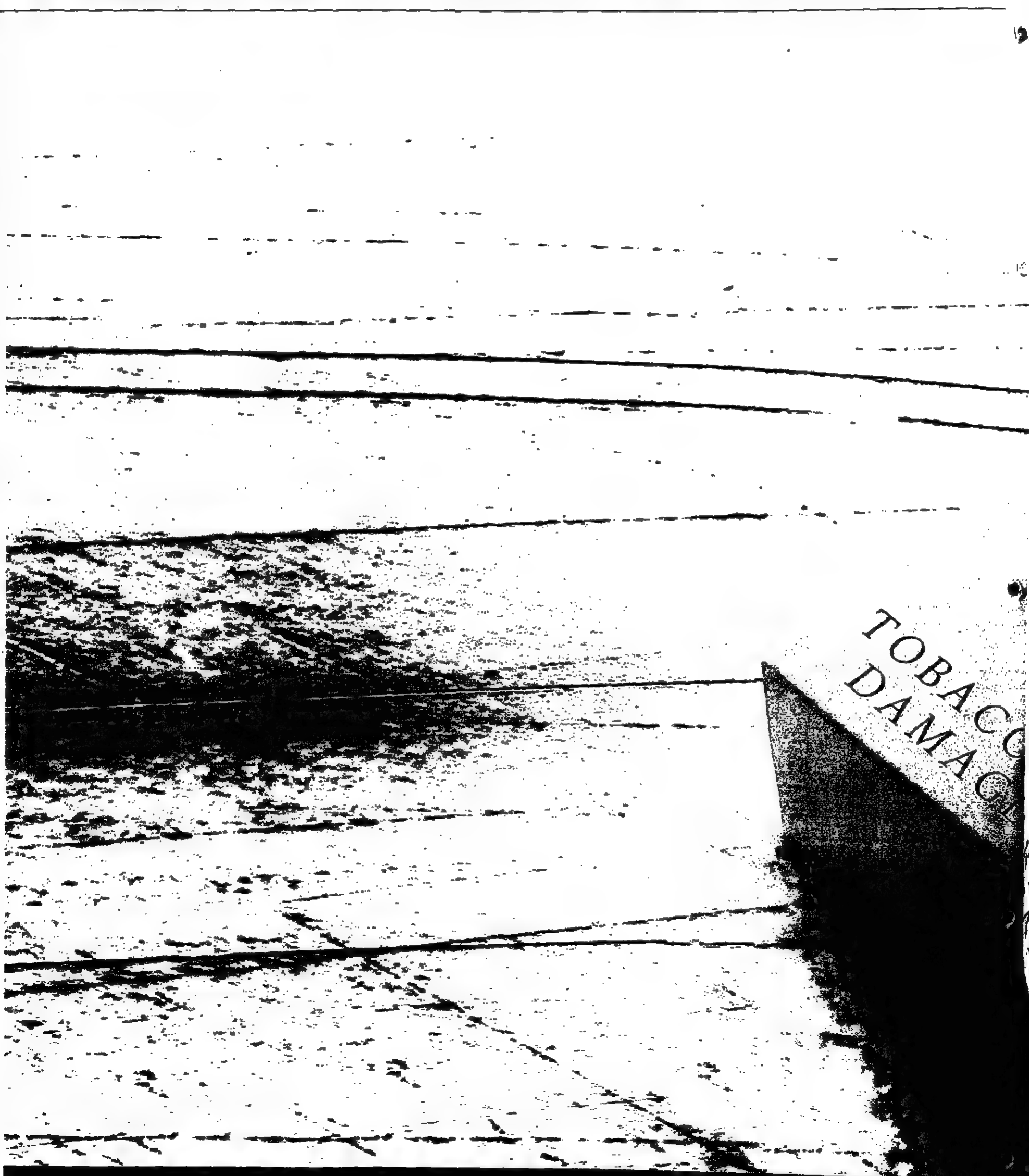
Independent ski rental shops say that Vail Associates, a subsidiary of Vail Resorts, is pricing them out. Other residents say blaring music and Adventure Ridge, an all-night sporting playground, are the beginning of the end.

The company is hoping to build more lifts and homes on 2,000 acres next to the resort and makes no apology for operating on the principle "bigger means better".

Andy Daly, president of Vail Associates, said: "We are in the entertainment business. People come to Colorado for the all-in experience of winter wonderland. Our challenge is to avoid animating it the way Disneyland does and to keep it very natural."

Rockies' grande dame may become great whore of Colorado skiing

stone, and began an aggressive expansion to increase its percentage of the tourist dollar. Many villagers believe that traditional Vail visitors will join a steady stream making the pilgrimage to Aspen. German skiers, who have favoured Vail for its "Bavarian" architecture, are already said to be deserting. Jonathan Stauter, whose



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# UN to rescue 100,000 refugees in Zaire jungle

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

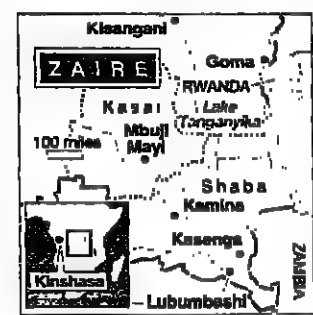
THE United Nations yesterday began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda. The cost of the operation, authorised at the weekend by Laurent Kabila, leader of Zaire's rebels, was estimated to be at least \$50 million (£30.7 million) and may take several months.

The refugees, who fled to Zaire in 1994 in fear of retribution for their part in the genocide of a million Tutsis and moderates of their own tribe, will be flown from rebel-held Kisangani, to Goma, close to the border with Rwanda, and then trucked home.

Their numbers have been depleted, with deaths running at about 120 a day according to UN officials, after a seven-month trek through Zaire's jungle ahead of the Tutsi-dominated rebel advance. After their flight through the forests, and weeks living off grubs, leaves and roots, the refugees were unable to make the journey over roads im-

passable to vehicles. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement from Geneva: "We are delighted that [the rebel] alliance has agreed to allow this desperately needed airlift to begin. Many thousands of refugees are dying of malnutrition and disease. We are racing against time to save their lives. The repatriation via Kisangani represents the best and quickest way of doing that."

In Pretoria talks between Zaire's Government and the rebels opened at the weekend, but not even Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN special en-



voy, held out any hope that they would lead to a ceasefire. On Saturday Mr Kabila's fighters overran MbujiMayi, the capital of East Kasai province and centre of Zaire's diamond trade, and the chance of their agreeing to a ceasefire seems remote, unless President Mobutu steps down. At MbujiMayi there was little resistance from local soldiers who stole mining company vehicles to flee. The only fighting, mining sources said, was between government soldiers and civilians trying to prevent the looting of their possessions.

At least \$20 million in diamonds are traded on MbujiMayi's streets each week. Now the rebels have access to funds that could be used to bolster their nascent administration.

Like Kisangani, MbujiMayi fell without much of a fight because the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire has earned a reputation for discipline. In some of the areas under alliance control local adminis-

trators are collecting taxes. The money has been used to pay public servants — an almost unheard of level of honesty in Zaire.

Mr Kabila's forces yesterday were poised to take Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city and the centre of the mining industry. Locals have been waiting eagerly and nervously for the arrival of the rebels who, some sources claimed, had already negotiated contracts with international mineral companies.

"If there are any more than a few shots in the air when the rebels attack Lubumbashi, I would be very surprised," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa, the capital. "Psychologically, the place is already in the hands of the rebels."

Mr Kabila's forces were about 125 miles away from Lubumbashi yesterday. The rebel leader hinted that after taking Tenke — to be the site of the world's largest copper and cobalt mine — that Lubumbashi could fall to his troops early this week.



A Rwandan refugee is carried on a stretcher to a medical facility at a makeshift camp south of Kisangani

## Papers on Rhodesia show rage of Wilson

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony", newly released Commonwealth papers reveal today.

He later withdrew the word "bloody" at the private meeting of Commonwealth leaders in London, but was irritated by their failure to back Britain's proposal to offer Ian Smith a last chance to sort out his illegal regime. Many Commonwealth leaders, particularly those from Africa and Asia, believed force was the only sure way to bring down the Smith regime.

In the first release of papers from the Commonwealth Secretariat under the 30-year rule, it is clear Wilson became teary and ranting by the protracted discussions of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers dealing with Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in November 1965.

He finally snapped at a secret session of Prime Ministers in London in September 1966, when he said the attitudes of some Commonwealth leaders were putting him in a position which no head of government could tolerate. He railed at the meeting and said his colleagues paid no attention to the problems he and his Cabinet faced over Rhodesia. He complained that each time he modified British policy to suit them, they demanded more concessions. He said they took no account of Britain's relationship with South Africa and the number of British citizens in Rhodesia.

In a particularly brazen mood, Wilson reminded his colleagues that, if it had not been for Britain, none of their countries would have been granted independence, and they should remember Britain too was independent. Wilson erupted again at another private meeting after leaks to the press and he accused Commonwealth leaders of mounting "a campaign of character assassination" against him. He was incensed by press reports that I. M. Kapwepwe, the Zambian Foreign Minister, had called him a "racist" in interviews in London.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Ginsberg dies after a stroke

New York: Eight days after learning that he had inoperable liver cancer, the beatnik writer and iconoclast Allen Ginsberg has died in New York aged 70 (Quentin Letts writes).

Last Thursday Ginsberg suffered a stroke and fell into a coma from which he never awoke, according to friends. His favourite Tibetan monk was on hand to perform a Buddhist ceremony to the dead. **Obituary, page 23**

### US envoy faces visa inquiries

Hong Kong: Police are investigating James DeBries, a US diplomat here, for suspected visa fraud in the second such scandal at the US consulate in the run-up to the handover to China (Catherine Field writes). The case is part of inquiries into the suspected smuggling of illegal immigrants from China to America.

### Rebels massacre 80 in Algeria

Paris: In the worst violence in Algeria for five years, Muslim guerrillas have massacred more than 80 men, women and children (Susan Bell writes). The Algerian press reported that victims had been cut with chainsaws, hacked to death with axes and doused with petrol in the attacks last Thursday and Friday.

### Netanyahu flies to talks in US

Jerusalem: Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday embarked on a peace mission to the US seen by diplomats as a last chance to prevent violence between Jews and Arabs developing into all-out conflict. Besides President Clinton, he will also meet King Hussein of Jordan. **William Rees-Mogg, page 20**

### Towing feat

Bonn: An engineering student on rollerblades, Dirk Aver, 25, has claimed a world speed record after holding on to the back of a Porsche sports car as it reached 153 mph, a German newspaper reported. (Reuters)

## Missing pilot and jet baffle US Air Force

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

UNITED States Air Force officials are mystified by the mid-flight disappearance of one of their ground-attack jets. An A10 Thunderbolt, carrying four 500lb bombs and flown by an experienced instructor, went missing last week, but its absence was reported only yesterday.

The pilot, Captain Craig Button, 33, based at Laughlin in Del Rio, Texas, was new to the Tucson, Arizona, base from which he took off on what should have been a routine flight to a nearby airfield. Captain Button, whose plane was accompanied by two other air force

jets, suddenly broke out of formation and peeled off north towards the Colorado Rockies.

Search teams scoured parts of Arizona and Colorado for the missing plane, worth \$9 million (£5.5 million). Bad weather impeded their efforts. The jet showed no signs of mechanical failure and no crashes have been reported in the region. The air force said that, had the plane hit the ground, its bombs would not necessarily have exploded.

An air force spokesman said one possibility being considered was that Captain Button had stolen the jet.

# HEART DISEASE

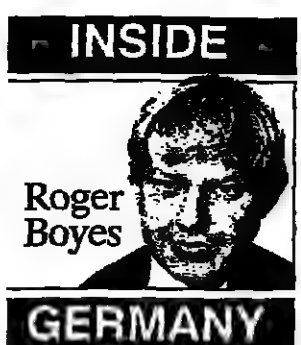
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## Hit-team trial undermines Bonn's cosy relations with Iranian mullahs

Germany's true political dramas are played out in the courtroom rather than in parliament. Like a bored viewer, channel-hopping between soap operas, one could spend one's working life commuting between trials — of spymasters and traitors, a murderous doctor, Politburo bigwigs, a toupéed property dealer and befuddled skinheads with swastikas tattooed on their knuckles.

If, as expected, an Iranian hit team is jailed by a Berlin court this week, Wagnerian storm clouds will break over Europe's already choppy relationship with the Tehran



Roger Boyes  
GERMANY

regime. Germany has been the most zealous proponent of Europe's "critical dialogue" with the mullahs. Yet the trial prosecutor has been

arguing that an attack on Iranian Kurdish dissident leaders — shot in a Berlin restaurant five years ago — was ordered by Tehran.

An arrest warrant has been issued by the German authorities for Iran's Police Minister, Ali Fallahian. A guilty verdict in Berlin will effectively brand Iran as a sponsor of international terrorism and make it impossible to continue with the European line that seeks to reform the regime by selling it anything it can afford while tut-tutting whenever a dissident is abducted.

There has been precious little "criticism" in this dia-

logue and, for that matter, very little talk. A balance sheet covering five years of this entirely misconceived policy makes the situation plain. At least 11 Iranian exiles have been murdered and some 300 expatriates have been harassed or blackmailed. Some of these operations have been run from the Iranian Embassy in Bonn.

The price on Salman Rushdie's head has been raised, and in Iran, writers are feeling the pressure, not only from a rigorous censor. In the Middle East, Iran continues to destabilise. Its support for Hezbollah keeps the region on edge. There is,

admittedly, not much to show for the US alternative — an all-out trade boycott of Iran. Germany, whose excellent trading relationship with Tehran is rooted in the 1857 Friendship Treaty between Persia and Prussia, resists sanctions, claiming that it hurts only the Iranian people.

Similar arguments were mustered by Bonn during the Cold War. The essence of early Ostpolitik — now applied to Iran, China and other closed regimes — is that trade encourages modernisation and that they lobby at home for human rights concessions. Gradually the com-

plexion of the regime begins to change. The German approach, adopted blindly by the European Union, ignores the rumblings of discontent, the revolutionary potential of ordinary people, and focuses on battles (some of them little more than quixotic imaginings) within the establishment. That leads to poor analysis and an almost cartoon version of events which constantly pits "liberals" against "hardliners" in a never ending Tom and Jerry knockabout. Iran has never fallen comfortably into these categories; it seems — after parliamentary elections and ahead of this year's presiden-

tial contest — that the Islamic conservatives are calling the tune. But the only meaningful key to understanding the Iranian political class is to look for, and build on, the pragmatic instincts of those who want to hang on to power. That means applying real pressure on every issue that matters.

The Iranian regime is capable of constructive action. It mediated in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh; it has made some efforts to stabilise the Trans-Caucasian republics, and in Central Asia — Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan — it has

been playing a more useful role than Saudi Arabia or Pakistan. It does so because it can identify its goals in these regions.

Europe should spell out with equal clarity the limits of Iranian activities on the continent. Killing or threatening to kill people in EU states should lead to swift expulsion of diplomats and the scaling down of trade missions. Steps progressively isolating Iran would probably have more impact than sanctions. Germany should take the first step, as soon as the Berlin court returns its verdict.

## Russian reformer heeds 'babushka' Thatcher's advice

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BARONESS THATCHER is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics.

In a wide-ranging interview, Boris Nemtsov, the First Deputy Prime Minister appointed three weeks ago to shake up the Government, set out his ambitious strategy to tackle the most pressing matters facing Russia.

Young, good-looking and witty, the former liberal governor of Nizhny Novgorod compared his job to that of a kamikaze pilot. If he fails, his political career may plunge to destruction. If successful, he could become an unbeatable challenger for the presidency in 2000.

As he embarks on his mission to root out corruption, break up monopolies and sort out the country's chaotic pension system, Mr Nemtsov revealed that he had discussed his plans in detail with Baroness Thatcher, a long-time friend and political ally, to whom at one point he referred as *babushka* (granny).

"I was at her home in December in Chester Square. We discussed three topics: the damage caused by monopolies, how to fight corruption, and the state pension system," he told *The Times* at his new office in the White House in Moscow.

He said: "She may not know the details, but she is great in assessing the overall situation." In his autobiography, *The Provincial*, which is launched in Russia this week, Mr Nemtsov makes it clear that more than just friendship unites them. "In general, I believe that Russia needs someone like Thatcher. She

knows what needs to be done and how to do it," he writes.

The 37-year-old former physicist can certainly use all the help he can get. After President Yeltsin and his influential daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, persuaded him to accept the ministerial job, he infuriated Moscow's political elite by forcing them to use Russian-made cars instead of imported ones.

Last week he was instrumental in helping to water down the reunification treaty with Belarus, which had been criticised by fellow liberals as a pact with a dictatorship.

This week he plans to start tackling massive official corruption. He is pushing through a presidential decree forcing every ministry to put out to public tender all government contracts, which are currently conducted in secret, often with huge bribes for bureaucrats.

"It had to be the first step in the struggle against corruption," said Mr Nemtsov. "Food and uniforms for the army, healthcare equipment,



Nemtsov: determined to purge corruption

grain and everything dealing with state supplies will be procured on the basis of open tenders."

His next big challenge will be to break up Russia's powerful monopolies, in particular the energy sector, the railways, roads and the huge gas conglomerate. This final move is likely to set him on a collision course with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whose failure to tackle Russia's economic problems, such as unpaid wages and pensions, resulted in Mr Nemtsov's appointment.

Certainly, the brash young former governor is not afraid of a fight. In his book, he does not mince his words about the Prime Minister he now serves.

"He is a good man... but maybe he is not quite ready for prime ministerial work in conditions of crisis," he writes. "He is experienced... but he wants to remain an economic planner, and has for a long time resisted the daily pressures forcing him into politics. He is in a dubious position."

Only the coming months will tell whether Mr Nemtsov can survive his battle with the Moscow establishment, a fight which led to the sacking last year of Aleksandr Lebed, the former National Security Adviser, who trod on too many toes during his short tenure.

Nevertheless, Mr Nemtsov remained outwardly philosophical. He insisted that in accepting the job — against the wishes of his wife and daughter — he was not furthering any personal ambitions to become President. Few pundits in Moscow believe his denials. His ranking in a monthly poll of the country's most influential political figures jumped last week from twenty-fourth to fourth.



American astronaut Janice Voss, above, takes a firm grip with her feet as she makes checks on board the Columbia space shuttle's spacelab at the weekend. She and five colleagues, including Roger Crouch, seen in the background, are to abort their mission because of problems

### Shuttle mission aborted

with an electric generator (Queen Letts writes). NASA's Mission Control yesterday ordered Columbia to return to Earth two weeks earlier than scheduled. The mission was to have lasted until April

20. The shuttle, which blasted off on Friday with a long list of scientific experiments to attempt, is expected to touch down at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, tomorrow. Millions of dollars have been

lost. Meanwhile, two Russians and an American on board the Russian space station Mir were stripped down to their waists yesterday as temperatures soared because of a problem with an air purification system. An unmanned rocket is on its way with spare parts.

## Whistle blown on French secret police

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A DISILLUSIONED former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation.

Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has brought the suit against Patrick Rogelet, whose book, *The Scandal Machine*, was published on Friday. In it, M Rogelet calls for the disbanding of the Renseignements Généraux (RG), on the grounds that it is a threat to democracy. Describing the organisation as "above the

law", M Rogelet says the organisation's agents are the most powerful people in France. The force is "a state within a state uncontrolled by the judiciary or by parliament", he says, adding that French politicians are often indebted to the force because of its role in suppressing corruption scandals.

His claims come at an embarrassing time for the ruling RPR party. Mysterious letters from a remarkably well-informed person to the judge investigating alleged illegal funding of the President and Prime Minister's party have included internal memos from the force, containing

tantalisng references to RPR financing and Swiss banks. However, despite repeated requests from the judge, the RG director, Yves Bertrand, and a senior officer, Brigitte Henri, have denied having any useful knowledge, leading to speculation that they may soon be placed under formal investigation for withholding information.

M Rogelet compares the RG's methods to those of the KGB or the Stasi. The force was set up under the collaborationist Vichy government in 1941 to carry out "political surveillance" of Jews, communists and resistance members.

## Election threatens EU treaty timetable

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE new-look Maastricht treaty comes up for a fresh round of haggling today with continental governments growing worried that Britain's election could derail the effort to tie up negotiations by June.

Although David Davis, the Minister for European Union, is at the table in the Dutch resort of Noordwijk, London is effectively playing Banquo's ghost as the other 14 governments go through the motions without any real British engagement.

The "conclave" of the inter-governmental conference (IGC) was called by the Dutch to give fresh impetus to treaty talks that began a year ago and are supposed to produce a blueprint for a more integrated Europe at an EU summit in Amsterdam in June. British resistance to any dilution of the national veto has dominated the talks, masking wide disagreement over defence, the size of the European Commission and the powers of the European Parliament.

EU officials are beginning to fret that the birth of a new British government in early May will leave too little time to bridge the differences and tie up the treaty by the summer. There is also a growing awareness that, while a Blair administration may be better disposed towards Europe, it would pitch its camp on almost the same lines as the Conservatives. Fresh negotiation may be needed in Luxembourg, the next EU presidency, in the autumn.

Souring the atmosphere as ministers gathered on the North Sea coast last night was a squabble over relations with China. France, Germany, Italy and Spain refused to agree on an EU declaration, supported by Britain and the other nine states, condemning China's human rights policies.

## Who else offers such a spread of bets on the election?

City Index is offering a great spread of bets on the General Election.

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Iñaki Urdangarin, top, at the Atlanta Olympics

## Sports star 'seeks hand of princess'

FROM TUNIKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SOCCER-obsessed Spaniards have developed a sudden interest in handball, provoked by rumours that the Infanta Cristina de Borbón y Grecia, the second daughter of King Juan Carlos, will shortly announce her engagement to a Barcelona player.

The 31-year-old Infanta, third in line to the Spanish throne and a keen sports fan, is being linked to Iñaki Urdangarin Liekeht, 28, who was a member of Spain's handball team at last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The Infanta Cristina was at the Games where she spent a good deal of time at the handball courts, exhorting the Spanish players to an unprec-

edented bronze medal. News of her impending engagement to Señor Urdangarin was broken last Tuesday by a television station.

Last week a journalist misled Doña Pilar de Borbón, the King's older sister, into believing that an announcement of the engagement had been made. A delighted Doña Pilar revealed that she "knew all about" Señor Urdangarin. "He is extremely handsome," she added.

King Juan Carlos, visiting Mexico, said guardedly: "Yes, they are friends, and they go out as friends, but nothing more." However, he added: "No one can know what will happen in the future."

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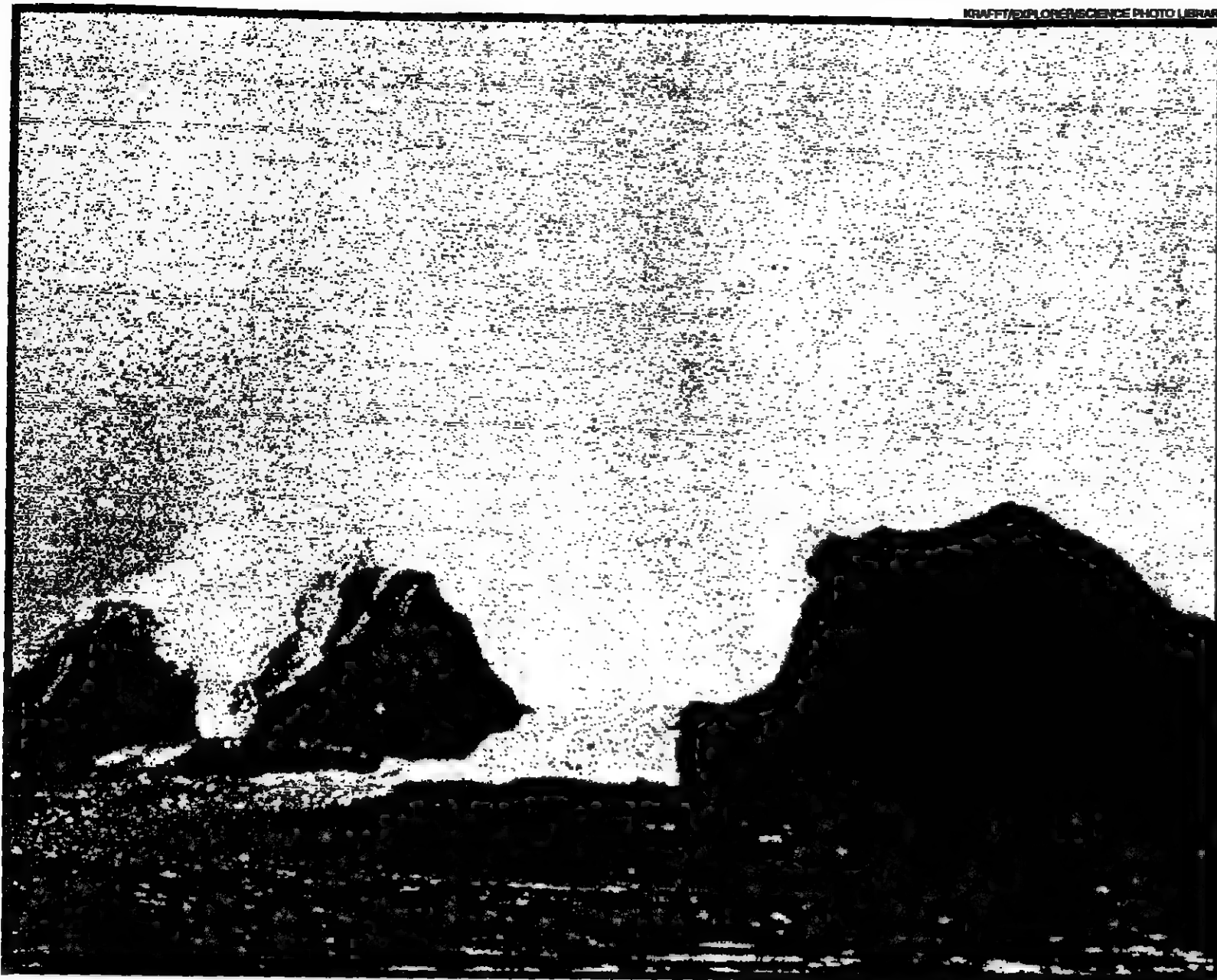


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TIM 7





Some of the most volcanically active regions lie under key airline routes, where billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a threat to air traffic

## Sitting on a time bomb

A handsome volcano expert predicts an eruption and warns a nearby town to evacuate: the warning is ignored, with deadly consequences. The plot of *Dante's Peak*, in which Pierce Brosnan stars as the heroic volcanologist, could easily be dismissed as trite.

Yet the truth about volcanoes. Nature's most vicious and dramatic time bombs, makes for disturbing reading. Volcanologists predict, using historical records, that a major eruption is imminent. As yet, there is no foolproof method of knowing which of the planet's 600-odd active volcanoes will blow its top. It seems Hollywood's reading of the situation isn't too wide of the mark.

And there's worse. Some of the most volcanically active regions, such as the Aleutian Islands off Alaska, lie under key airline routes. The United States Geological Survey estimates that for four days a year, billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a significant hazard to air traffic.

Satellites look likely to provide the answer. Two European remote sensing satellites, ERS-1 and ERS-2, have been monitoring ground movements at Mount Etna. Next year will see the launch of AMI-1, an American satellite that will map lava flows, measure the drift of volcanic clouds, and monitor emissions of sulphur dioxide. Another satellite, LightSAR, which would provide the most detailed and consistent information on volcanic activity so far, is in the planning stage.

"The height of the ground can shift vertically by about six inches prior to an eruption," says Dr Jeffrey Plaut, a geologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and researcher on LightSAR.

"It is caused by the magma swelling under the summit. The groundshifts tend to go hand in hand with changes in lava flows and emissions," the LightSAR instruments-

Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they cannot say where. Anjana Ahuja reports

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"It is caused by the magma swelling under the summit. The groundshifts tend to go hand in hand with changes in lava flows and emissions," the LightSAR instruments-

tion would be capable of measuring shifts in centimetres. However, scientists admit that the time lag between seeing a shift and an eruption could be anything from hours to months.

Until now, researchers have had to gather information from instruments on the ground and aircraft flyovers. They have enjoyed some success — the eruption in 1991 of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines was forecast, and 85,000 people were evacuated. An eruption in Papua New Guinea was also predicted 24 hours beforehand. However, ground instruments and flyovers present serious drawbacks.

First, it is often risky for people and planes to get too close to an volcano — several volcanologists have died over the past few years during ground experiments. Instruments can succumb to the harsh environment, and they can also perish if the volcano shifts. Dr Plaut says: "There tend to be precursors to eruptions, and one of these pulses in activity can be enough to wipe out instruments."

That makes data-gathering patchy, which renders the reliable identification of trends almost impossible. Another hindrance is that not all areas are accessible, either because the terrain is remote or because of political barriers.

These remote regions can be monitored from space. It would also assist countries who cannot afford to maintain a network of ground instruments. The other bonus is that radar can be used night and day, and in cloudy weather, giving more consistent coverage. The pulses are bounced off the Earth, and any change in the returning "echoes" indicates a shift.

As for the threat to aircraft,

an American volcanologist has come up with an intriguing idea. Dr Dave Pieri, also from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has proposed installing a constellation of three or four satellites with the sole intention of monitoring the turbulent "ring of fire" surrounding the Pacific. Thought to be one of the most active regions, it also happens to sit beneath a popular flight path.

In these cash-strapped times, Dr Pieri has floated the idea of funding the constellation by levying a seven-dollar fee on every airline passenger flying those routes. In other words, the scheme would introduce a "volcano tax". The plan is being discussed by the aviation authorities.

"The route from Anchorage to Tokyo passes over about 300 active volcanoes," Dr Pieri says. "With the South-East Asian economy growing so quickly, traffic can only expand. The great threat is that volcanic plumes can reach aircraft altitudes. The ash gets sucked in the engine and melts, and this can stop the engine cooling. As a result, the engines can overheat. It really is a pressing issue. To my mind, it is the most direct worldwide threat from volcanoes."

Dr Pieri is not the only expert anxious to hurry research along. Bill McGuire, a volcanologist from University College London, has repeatedly warned that too little is being done to prepare for the worst. Volcanologists around the world think that the issue is taking on a fresh urgency, especially as the settlements near dormant volcanoes expand.

But despite the fears, volcanologists have to cope with funding problems and political hurdles. Plans for a dedicated volcano satellite, the

The height of the ground can shift by about six inches

**TUESDAY**

**10 P**

**THE TIMES**

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## The gene genie

THE understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive. What does it profit us to know the genetic fault responsible for cystic fibrosis if we cannot use a corrected gene to put it right?

It is turning out to be very difficult to insinuate single genes into cells, make them work, and thereby cure disease. An alternative approach is certainly welcome, and may have opened up with the creation by American scientists of the first artificial human chromosomes.

Human beings have about 100,000 genes, found in the nucleus of cells wrapped in packages called chromosomes. Since there are only 23 pairs of chromosomes, each one contains many genes. The chromosomes act as stable platforms to enable the genes to do their job of creating proteins in a predictable way. So far, individual genes carried into the cell on the back of a virus, for example, have lacked this stability of expression.

Dr Huntington Willard and colleagues from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, have followed a different approach. Rather than trying to get individual genes into an existing chromosome, they propose creating a chromosome to contain it. And their experiments, reported in *Nature Genetics*, are encouraging evidence that they may be able to do it.

Chromosomes are not simply long stretches of DNA. They have terminal regions called telomeres, often compared to



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

the tips of shoelaces, and with a similar purpose — to stop the DNA fraying. They also have regions in the centre, called centromeres. Between these two fixed points are the genes.

The artificial chromosome created by the Cleveland team is simple, containing only one gene, plus synthetic telomeres and centromeres. They were all inserted separately into human cells in culture. Then, just as the researchers hoped, the cells' own machinery assembled them in the right order, and covered them in chromatin, the protein that surrounds chromosomes. The cells then treated

the new chromosome as if it were one of their own.

When the cells divided, the artificial chromosome did, too, copying itself for 240 successive divisions over the six-month period for which the culture was followed. Since this was a test-tube culture, it is impossible to know whether it would have functioned in the body. "We have every reason to expect that human genes would be expressed just fine," says Dr Willard.

A biotech company, Athcrs, also based in Cleveland, hopes to exploit the development by treating blood disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, and immune deficiencies. Blood would be removed from a patient, treated so that its cells contained synthetic chromosomes able to make the missing proteins, and returned. If it worked, the disease would be cured. Medicine is seldom that simple, but it is nice to dream.

## Human origins lie in African variations

THE argument over whether human beings emerged in Africa or, as some argue, everywhere, has generated a lot of heat. Now a new study supports the out-of-Africa hypothesis by showing that today's African populations have a greater genetic diversity than Europeans or Asians.

Genetic changes accumulate slowly, so the longer a population stays in one place, the greater the number of variations in its genes. If a group emigrates, it takes a sub-set of the genes containing less than the full extent of variation. This difference can be detected even hundreds of generations later.

The out-of-Africa proponents would therefore expect African populations to be more varied, as shown by Dr Lynn Jorde, of the University of Utah, and colleagues in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They looked at 60 different genetic regions in the genes of Africans, Asians and Europeans. Diversity was 20 per cent higher among Africans, consistent with an African origin of modern humans, says Dr Jorde.

## Introducing 007's latest weapon

GERMAN engineering is rightly celebrated, but some might hesitate to submit themselves to its latest product — a mechanical massage machine produced by the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation in Stuttgart. The machine is designed to deliver a soothing massage to the back and legs without human intervention.

The moving robot arm travels up and down the body, gently lowering the massage "head" to pummel the flesh. Various heads are available, including coarsened rubber, bristles, or what the institute calls "nubs". The pressure and type of massage can be programmed from the prone position, but built-in safety systems ensure that the robot cannot become too rough.

A prototype has been built, and its designers expect manufacturers will be keen to make it more commercial. Fitness centres, sunbathe studios and hotels are all expected to be keen, but the machine really seems purpose-designed for a James Bond film.

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# 'She is the smiliest, most playful of babies. It's true a dad can be more affectionate to a daughter'

A year ago, six months after his father's death, Martin Amis told me he missed his dad most when he wanted to discuss some point of language with him. This may have seemed to some a peculiarly cerebral form of bereavement. But the short-hand dialogue between two like minds is the greatest loss. "I'm always dying to tell him things," Martin says.

Of course. Mangled, mis-used words were the lingua franca of Amis père et fils. How they chorled in derision at the berks and oiks who could not spell, pronounce or use correctly the word "je-june". (Nothing to do with jeune, and means thin, not puerile.) "Martin and I," Kingsley once told me, "have our ears permanently pricked for the way people say things."

Kingsley, who would have been 75 next week, is now back in the bestsellers with *The King's English*, his commonplace book about the state of the language.

I met Martin in The Engineer pub in Primrose Hill. At 47, he finds himself the father of a substantial family (four) and has moved with the writer Isabel Fonseca and their new baby Fernanda into a handsome stucco house in the road where his father lived.

It was perfectly possible — as it was with Kingsley — to spend the entire lunch arguing and laughing about words: the mysterious derivation of syco-phant (one who shows figs); of penis/pencil; of medicinalous ("best by small fears"). "I'm slightly to the left of him, on language as on everything else," Martin said. "I don't say 'medi-eval', do you?" (I do, actually.)

He was astonished to find this book complete after his father's death. "I used to take the two boys to lunch there every Sunday, and would go to have a cigarette in his study. I remember seeing the 'Déjà vu' section on his desk and thought it was perfectly perceived and executed. But I rather doubted that there was a book's worth of stuff."

"After his stroke, he would struggle for words, even to complete a cliché. He would still tap away, but Mum said he was battling with the same sentence, day after day. Poor, poor thing."

"So I was amazed, when I got the typescript, at how solid and finished it was, and to find him at his most incisive, fair-

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



mined, and wise. Some reviewers called it idiosyncratic. What did they expect from Kingsley?

The title is an in-joke. Kingsley Amis was not fancying himself Fowler, or forgetting that it's now *The Queen's English*, as foolish pedants harrumphed. "The King" was how he was known among friends — a literary gang-leader, as Charles Moore wrote to *The Spectator* to say. (Close friends addressed him as "Kingsley".)

Robert Conquest was Conquest, says Martin. "And they referred to Solzhenitsyn as Solzhenitsyn as Solzhenitsyn."

I love the book because he deals with my *bête noire*, the now common misuse of "may" for "might". When the outcome is already known, "I may have died" or "The Queen may have got engaged to several other suitors before Prince Philip" are priceless examples that I wish the King were here to share.

"My obsession," Martin said, "is 'if it were' and 'if it was'. 'If the Big Bang were an instantaneous event' — and thought, well, it's the beginning of time, that long ago, it has to be 'was'. But a philosopher friend tells me great minds have wrestled with this and not managed to get it straight. It's one of the great miasmas of language."

Martin, who took a congratulatory First in English at Oxford, is less classically educated than his father, having small Latin (O-level grade D) and no Greek. On a French TV programme he needed an interpreter but so did John

A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened"

Updike and V.S. Naipaul.

Still, in the impromptu brilliance of his conversation, and the rascular diligence of his writing, he outclasses his father. He would never use a word against his derivation: "You can't say 'a dilapidated hedge' when 'lapis' is stone." His dictionary is well-thumbed, and as Kingsley writes: "The habit of consulting a dictionary is largely dying out." In fact the book's refrain is *Going, Going, as in*

Larkin's morose poem. The apostrophe is going, the possessive gerund is going, the subjunctive is almost gone. Change and decay in all around he sees. Yet it is also full of jokes, just as Martin's 1970s *New Statesman* column, *This English*, was.

Martin supplied his father with several items. It was he who told him about his dentist saying "Open widely". And Martin who heard Jessica Lange at the Golden Globes in Hollywood saying "Lastly but not least, I'd like to thank..."

Kingsley Amis is scathing of snob usages: "Connection" is not classier than "connexion". But he still sets some arbitrarily snobby U/Non-U traps: crossed sevens are "an affectionation"; he judges it absurd to pronounce Latin as Latin, not English; he disallows the useful "forever" as in "I'm forever blowing bubbles". He insists that alas is pronounced "alash". "Piss!" as he would say. Most infuriating is "Womanese". The Amises share a conviction that all women are Mrs Malaprop. Most of Kingsley's examples are from Martin's novel *The Information* — "the only page he read: I marked it for him."

Martin says all the women in his life mangle phrases, and his mother, Hilary, is "world heavyweight champion". (She once said, "Get your A levels, and the world's your lobster".)

It is a relief to see Martin Amis smile. For him, the year 1995-6 moved off the Richter-scale of stress indicators: his marriage broke up; Isabel Fonseca was pregnant; he moved house; he had his teeth expensively fixed. He ditched his agent and his publisher; he was accused of greed and in a painfully public rift, lost his old friend Julian Barnes. His long-disappeared cousin Lucy Partington turned out to be one of Fred West's victims. *The Information* was about the mid-life crisis and it became a mid-life crisis: he said all he needed now was the death of a parent...

However, he says, a crisis strengthens and emboldens you. And it passes. One bonus was the emergence of Delilah Seale, his daughter from a 1975 affair, now an Oxford undergraduate of 21. Two new books are finished. And in November, Fernanda arrived, "the smiliest, most playful" of babies, he dotingly says. He can see what he missed by not knowing Delilah's babyhood. "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies," he says

genes and talents, and people thought I'd bucked the work ethic, by my struggle not being a struggle. "Is he released from all that now?"

"Well, no, because I'm still oversteering the welcome." He remains fixed in favour of fiction above biography as revealing of the writer's soul; it is "the only way to redeem the formlessness of life, otherwise the stuff itself would strike me as unendurably thin". Come on, he can hardly call his recent life thin. "But the entanglements of life are shapeless, just brute happenstance, heavy-handed reality."

He says a writer is, by definition, one who is most alive when alone. "But there's a big bill to pay. It makes you very detached. I notice, even with the baby, if I'm very preoccupied with writing, and come down and pick her up and kiss her, it's as if she's a stranger, because I'm so elsewhere. But that's the only complaint I have against the job." As he told Melvyn Bragg in his *South Bank* interview, there is no point in writing at all unless you think you're the best; every writer thirsts for Johnsonian longevity of esteem, and posthumous survival — but will never know if he gets it.



Martin Amis and his new baby daughter Fernanda: "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies," he says

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## MUSIC

Nige is back: Master Kennedy brings his fiddle and virtuosity to the Festival Hall  
RECITAL: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



## FILM

Portrait of a porn-merchant: Woody Harrison stars in *The People vs Larry Flynt*  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



## RECORDS

Depeche Mode put their troubles behind them with the release of an emphatic new album  
IN THE SHOPS: This week  
REVIEW: Friday



## BOOKS

How Proust Can Change Your Life: Alain de Botton reveals all in a new study  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday

**ARTS**  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

POP: A professional but processed show from Eternal. Plus, disappointment from a star line-up at Shepherds Bush



Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, Eternal, gave the popcorn-munching faithful what they came for

## The sound of a well-oiled machine

When popcorn sales appear to be upstaging the beer concession at this charm-free venue, you can be sure that family entertainment is the order of the evening. The Australian newcomers Human Nature, opening the show here but already gold-selling pin-ups back home, warmed young hands and hearts with a polished routine that featured their forthcoming UK debut single *Wishes*. The countless other groups stacked like sardines in the boy band market will just have to make room.

Headliners Eternal have enjoyed three and a half years of unbroken and, until recently, unrivalled success, their stride not even checked by Louise's departure for a star on her own door. Since last summer, of course, the melting pot of

Eternal  
Wembley Arena

competition among all-girl groups has got rather warmer, thanks to the new dominant flavour of five-Spice.

Such global supremacy may be in another league to Eternal, but then Easther and Vernie Bennett and Kelle Bryan are not the same cut of pop wannabee as the Spice Girls. One has watched them build firm foundations with a seamless series of well-tailored singles and two enormously successful albums, and with their third set, *Before the Rain*, selling more than 100,000 copies in its first seven days on sale last month, their batteries still seem quite able to power the machine.

Yet as their relentless rise reached its inevitable apogee on this arena tour, it was hard to shake the conclusion that Eternal are becoming just that, an entertainment "mach-

ine" with many of the showbiz clichés that entails. So ambitious are the production values of this new show, so obsessive the attention to image, costume change and grandiose set-piece, that the singing is almost an encumbrance. Thus on Friday evening, a Disneyesque air of make-believe descended: at times it was more like a visit to a circus than a concert, a spectacle easy to watch, even to admire, but not to interact with.

Their grand entrance was spun out over five minutes onto a set that was part space launch and part game show. They were eventually lowered to stage level on a kind of hydraulic swing to perform

PAUL SEXTON

## Not Ike's night

FRESH from cutting an all-star album with more guests than a Forté Travelodge, the guitarist Joe Louis Walker chose London to showcase two of them: the home-based saxman Otis Grand and, more importantly, the famous or, according to your point of view, infamous Ike Turner.

While Turner's personal values may have been questioned, his musical ones never

have. Here is an artist whose roots stretch all the way back to Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James. Teaming him with Walker, one of the most soulful of the new generation of black blues artists, must have seemed an inspired move. Yet for all the talent on show, this was a sadly low-key, sometimes disjointed, evening which never lived up to its initial promise.

Joe Louis Walker  
and Ike Turner  
Empire, W12

an unexpected but welcome homage to the Texan steel guitar master, Hop Wilson.

Off went Grand, on came Turner. Well, almost. In an incident which summed up much of the evening, there was an introduction, a fanfare, but no Ike. "I guess he's still upstairs," said a sheepish Walker as the band rifled away. Turner finally appeared wearing white tie and white tails, looking remarkably good for his 65 years. He settled down at the keyboards for an almost solo Ray Charles-like number before launching into a pleasant, if slightly perfunctory, version of the old Joe Turner warhorse, *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. Getting into his stride, Turner followed that with a powerful boogie that "Pinetop Perkins taught me about 50 years ago". As the evening started to warm up, Turner switched to guitar and shared the vocals with Walker on *Early in the Morning*.

What appeared to be a classic night in the making then went awry as Ike introduced his wife Jeanette, a blonde, Pamela Anderson lookalike who shimmered on stage for a couple of songs and then shimmered off.

The rest of the evening had Turner switching from guitar to piano once more for a version of *Rocket 88*, and then letting Walker back into the spotlight as the show started to get back on to an even keel. By then, it was too late. The barn-like atmosphere of the Empire didn't help, more rehearsals would have eliminated the pauses between numbers, and the audience wasn't that receptive either. In the words of Turner's old Memphis chum B.B. King, the talent was here, "but the thrill had gone".

JOHN CLARKE

## Minghella's silence

HAPPILY timed to appear while Anthony Minghella is man of the month, a new theatre company (Rascal Productions) has revived a stage version of his 1989 radio play, originally also directed by himself and, like *The English Patient*, a winner of prizes.

The programme does not reveal who adapted the script for the stage, and perhaps only a minimum of adaptation was required since the essence of the piece is a young woman's decision to stop speaking, and the dialogue consists of attempts by her friends and lovers to combat this seemingly inexplicable act. In the theatre we are able to see the silent Gemma as well as not hearing her,

though something of her radio persona as a blank screen survives in David Shields's set, where books and bookcases, flowers and vase are all paper-white. However, look more carefully and these items are seen to belong to the stage territory where Gemma's friends complain about her. The space she inhabits, stretched out on cushions listening over and over again to the St Matthew Passion, is bright with colour. Her smart, loquacious, north London friends provide possible clues to her behav-

## THEATRE

Cigarettes and  
Chocolate  
Man in the Moon

jour: a Vietnamese orphan seen on an Italian holiday; a Tibetan monk immolating himself as a political protest; a beg lady at Waterloo. Minghella portrays her social contemporaries as casually unfeeling, although refer-

ences to suicidal mothers provide reminders that death crosses all boundaries.

In nearly every scene of Christopher G. Sandford's absorbing production, the characters speak against a background of other people's noise. Each himself is treated as background by Charlie Burnell's Rob, until Gemma ups the volume on her CD player and thus turns Rob's whingeing into the infernal noise she has positioned herself against.

Sandford's cast articulate Minghella's variously distinc-

tive speeches with unusual clarity, and the glimpses into the lives of Gemma's set are intriguing enough to leave one always wanting to know how their anecdotes will end and what can happen next. Precise acting from Burnell, from Julie-Kate Olivier's chilled wife and Claire Stockley's gushing mother-to-be, from Colin Peel's tolerated lover and from Jane Allighan's pre-Raphaelite-faced Gemma. From Jackie Sawiris, too, as an Argentinian psychiatrist now working as a cleaner, whose trembling lip when atrocities are mentioned would have been impossible to detect on radio.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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JOHN CLARKE

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# Cicero's guide to the election

Peter Stothard on Paddy Ashdown's Golden Age

Once upon a time, long before people who gave electioneering advice were celebrated as spin-doctors, a certain very famous politician was fighting his first election for the consulship of Rome. Marcus Tullius Cicero, orator, intellectual and a man with little experience in public office, was campaigning in 63 BC against some of the best known, richest, most rapacious (and altogether sleaziest, as we would say) members of the Roman establishment. Cicero, like Tony Blair, seems to have been bright enough to recognise that he needed some help — and in the first "Handbook of Electioneering" to survive from the ancient world, he got it.

I was reminded of this on Saturday when Paddy Ashdown, after a week of watching headless chickens and bice-sized manifesto chunks, launched a desperate attack on the evils of the modern electoral process, damning the dominance of spinners and the dependency of office-seekers, praising by contrast the virtues of the lonely Liberal Democrat hero on his battlements. Before he tries to make this his travelling theme for the rest of the month, it would be worth his while to journey back in time a couple of millennia.

The supreme piece of campaigning advice for Cicero in the consular elections of 63 BC was one that Peter Mandelson and his men have inculcated in Labour from the beginning: focus, focus, focus, focus. As the Handbook has it: "Every day as you go down to the Forum, repeat to yourself over and over again the words 'I am new... I seek the consulship... I am new... I seek the consulship...' Do not give up this 'morning meditation' until polling day is past."

The next most important tip from the ancient electioneer is to believe your own publicity. If the candidate believes that he is new, different and virtuous, so will the electorate. To quote the Handbook again: "Although nature is strong, an assumed personality can overcome the natural self for at least a campaign of a few months."

The third lesson is to recognise the vanity of your supporters and their desire to be part of a winning team. "Small-town and country folk think themselves our friends if we only know them by name. And that word 'friend', you should remember, has a wider application in an election than in the rest of life. Anyone who shows you some goodwill or calls upon you regularly is to be counted as a friend."

The fourth point is that support can often be bought very cheaply. "Very small promises", the writer insists, "can induce men to think they have a sufficient cause to support us." The fifth line of advice is "to canvass continuously and to solicit the same people many times so that no one can say he has not been canvassed by you — and thoroughly and diligently canvassed too."

The sixth is to gain publicity for your own brilliance and even greater publicity for "the crimes, lusts and bribes of your competitors". He tells his client to remember how "in a

previous election one of your opponents actually bought a young girlfriend in the open market and brazenly flaunted her as his own."

If we take all of these precepts together, it is hard to think of a pamphlet that so accurately sets out the role of the modern campaign manager in the age of new Labour. Neil Hamilton, direct mail, Millbank Tower, Piers Merchant and the overwhelming requirement to stay "on message".

Mr Ashdown may not, of course, have been sincere in his weekend lament for the days of politics without spin-doctors. The Liberal Democrat leader, with his military record, airy rhetoric and self-conscious nostalgia, is arguably the most Roman of all the candidates in this election. His profile is certainly better suited to the back of a bronze coin than either John Major or Mr Blair's. Perhaps he was just promoting a line that he thought might win him votes, a tactic that the Handbook writer would most surely have endorsed.

Or perhaps he was simply being squeamish, content that advisers should advise but concerned that they were getting too much publicity. The self-described party of open government may prefer that that spin-doctors stay hidden in their surgeries. We are not, so far, seeing the like of Des Wilson in this Liberal Democrat campaign.

Perhaps, And yet, I have a sense that Mr Ashdown really believes in his Golden Age, that he yearns with all sincerity for the days before the Mandelsons and Wilsons and Saatchis were invented. It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed.

What was the election result in 63 BC, you may be asking. Well, Marcus Tullius Cicero, the new man facing the Roman establishment for the first time, won the consulship. Sergius Catilina, a thoroughly deserving target of the anti-sleaze campaign, was defeated. Did the victor follow the Handbook's advice down to the last letter? The great beauty of this particular spin-doctor's art is that we do not fully know.

The exact status of this fascinating 5,000-word text remains a mystery. Some scholars attribute it to Cicero's elegant younger brother, Quintus, who could thus be described as the Robert Kennedy of his time. Others, citing its un-Ciceronian style and rather too joyful use of jargon, have different explanations.

The truth, like the true records of Smith Square or Millbank today, could of course have proved embarrassing. The Handbook of Electioneering carries no fingerprints. It seems entirely fitting to the tradition of campaign management that this pioneering work should be direct, useful, cynical, true — and also, even two thousand years later, one hundred per cent deniable.

The future of the world may depend on the Middle East talks beginning today in Washington

## What has the new Jerusalem in store?

William Rees-Mogg

can remember an editorial discussion at the *Financial Times* — then still a small City paper produced in Coleman Street — in the mid-1950s. King Hussein of Jordan had just survived one of the numerous attempts on his life. One of us — perhaps it was one of my own mistaken forecasts — said: "I doubt if he can last three months." The others nodded their solemn agreement. He is still there 40 years later. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and the Gulf states, even the Palestinians themselves, have shown a similar resilience of apparently unstable regimes. Most of the regimes have actually lost wars and yet still survive.

Yet each setback in the peace process tends to radicalise the Arab world; it strengthens the extremist, terrorist and fundamentalist groups; it tends to discredit moderate governments; it alienates the young. One cannot assume, just because they have survived so many things in the past, that the moderate regimes would all survive a final breakdown in the peace process; certainly they might not be able to remain moderate. Yet the failure of the peace talks of 1972 led to the war of 1973 and to the oil shocks of the 1970s. With the growth of the Asian economies, including Japan and China, the world is in some ways more vulnerable to an oil shock than it was then.

Since the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, who was a just and strong man, the peace process has been greatly weakened. The immediate issue, which the

Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, will be discussing with President Clinton, is a local and apparently even trivial one which has become the focus of the main power struggle. Opinion among both Israelis and Palestinians has been inflamed by the Har Homa building project. The Israelis see it as a normal development of the suburbs of Jerusalem, matched by other developments for Arab families. The Arabs see it as a provocative extension of Israeli housing on Arab land. Avig-

halt the project would be a loss of face. Against an opponent as experienced in political manoeuvre as Mr Arafat, Mr Netanyahu can ill afford to climb down.

The American position before the talks contains a number of elements. There was the reassurance to Israel of last Thursday's announced increase in military aid; there will be support for small concessions to the Palestinians, including further sites for Arab housing. The United States will press Mr Netanyahu to reduce the scale of new Israeli settlements, but Washington probably does not expect him to cancel Har Homa, or even think that he could afford to do so. All of this will not be enough to prevent a continued deterioration of the situation on the ground, with more riots, more bombs, and more deaths on both sides.

So far, Washington has wanted to continue the policy of gradualism in the peace talks, fearing that an attempt to tackle the big issues would lead to an irrevocable breakdown. Now opinion is changing. Different reports, presumably coming from different American sources, say that the United States is still in favour of the gradual approach, or, as from Brownie Maddox in Washington, that "the United States has been pressing Israel to adopt a coalition 'government of national unity' and to move soon to talks with Yasser Arafat about the future of Jerusalem." This

is the high-risk, high-gain strategy. This forward strategy seems already to have persuaded Mr Netanyahu. He must be convinced that otherwise the situation can only continue to deteriorate. He is taking so Washington his own proposal to move rapidly to the most difficult issues, including the future status of Jerusalem. Mr Arafat probably agrees that the talks should be accelerated, but he is essentially a bargainer. He will not expect to get everything he wants at once, but further talks, with Israel under pressure, could give him a negotiating advantage. He would expect to gain some concessions.

Binyamin Netanyahu's formal position — as Christopher Walker has reported it — is still one that no Palestinian leader could accept and expect to remain leader. He has committed himself to allowing "no retreat to the 1967 borders, no Palestinian state, no division of Jerusalem". He will not be able to secure any final peace settlement without the acceptance of a Palestinian state. Some revision of the pre-1967 borders in favour of Israel is a perfectly legitimate objective, which might possibly be achieved in negotiation against the acceptance of a Palestinian state. Jerusalem, the city of faiths, is the core issue, as it has been since 1967, when a Times leader for which I was responsible inadvertently awarded the long-term sovereignty of Jerusalem to the Palestinians in the first edition and to the Israelis in subsequent editions. Jerusalem is an object of human idealism so intense that no one who possesses it will give it up without a battle, and anyone who has recently lost it will seek to regain it. Belfast is a similar insoluble problem city, as President Clinton has already found. But Jerusalem is a far greater historic prize, and hence a greater historic problem, than Belfast could ever be.

## The convenience of silence

The box of sticky truths will fly open in 25 days' time, writes Peter Riddell

Remember Helmut Kohl and Eddie George. They have not been popping up on our television screens recently, but what they said last week may have a bigger impact on us all after the election than most of the promises in the manifestos and the safety-first exchanges of the politicians.

All elections exist in a cocoon, an inward looking world of images, claims and counter-claims, phoney initiatives and alleged gaffes. Perspective and proportion are soon lost. Outsiders, however distinguished, seldom break into this self-absorption, which suits the desire of the parties to define the election in their own terms. This has been taken to extremes by Labour's determination to remove any possible area of vulnerability, as yesterday over privatisation and the single currency. Politicians are happy to talk toughly in general to boost their leadership images, but they seldom refer to any specific sacrifice someone might have to face.

Take the economy. Neither the Tories nor Labour are willing to admit what is predicted by virtually all economists (and, to be fair, the Liberal Democrats): that after the election taxes and interest rates will have to rise. Kenneth Clarke pretends that everything is fine, the economy is growing at an sustainable rate, and that the Tories' multi-billion-pound manifesto promises on transferring tax allowances and the like can be afforded without other tax increases. No wonder the Treasury wanted to water down the manifesto commitments. Mr Clarke's dilemma is summed up by the Tories' cast poster slogan, "Britain is booming". Not only has Mr Clarke tried to avoid



talking about a "boom" — since that implies the risk of over-rapid growth — but if there is a boom, now is not the time to be promising further tax cuts.

Gordon Brown complains that the Tory figures do not add up, and yet he cannot admit the need for monetary and fiscal tightening, for fear of being accused of planning such measures. Instead, he merely talks about Labour's plans not requiring additional taxes, so he can appear shocked and horrified in a month's time if he becomes Chancellor when he sees "the books". Of course, he already knows perfectly well what the true position is. He has fostered false expectations by talking about cutting VAT on domestic fuel and aiming, as a "long-term objective", for a 10p starting rate of income tax. The Governor of the Bank of

England shattered these illusions last Thursday when he warned that interest rates should rise to slow the rapid pace of expansion and to guard against inflation. Mr Clarke dismisses his well-known differences with Mr George as merely being about a quarter of one percentage point, but that trivialises and muddies the matter. If the economy is as strong as the Tories claim, interest rates should rise soon, although given the strength of sterling and market uncertainties there is probably an even stronger case for several billion pounds of tax increases and public spending cuts.

Mr Clarke should be able to fend off Mr George until polling day, but the Chancellor and the Governor are due to meet on May 7, six days later. Do not expect the politicians to prepare voters during the campaign for higher interest rates then, let alone for higher taxes later.

There is a similar air of make-believe about the debate about Europe. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be competing yesterday over who could add the more "verbs" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament. But that will not be the most pressing European matter after May 1. Nor is the most crucial consideration whether or not Britain signs the social chapter, important though that could be in the long-term for business costs and regulation.

The real question is what attitude a new government takes at the Amsterdam summit of European leaders in June. The Tories argue that only they

will assert Britain's national interests and resist the tide of integration, while Labour talks as if everything will be all right because it will be able to build new partnerships in Europe, while opposing a "federal super-state". Much of this is wishful thinking. The difference is over the leaders' room for manoeuvre. Tony Blair would be able to agree some limited extensions of qualified majority voting and revision of the powers of the European Parliament. The Tories oppose such changes, but as some MEPs have been warning, the party's inflexible stance risks making negotiations impossible and making other countries even keener on a multi-tier Europe.

Both main parties oppose many proposals likely to be put forward at Amsterdam for closer integration of foreign, defence, immigration and home affairs policies. There has, for example, been hardly any discussion in our election of the Franco-German plan for moving towards a European defence policy separate from Nato. But the reality behind these aspirations was underlined on Thursday when Chancellor Kohl concluded his annual slimming retreat in Austria with the announcement that he would seek re-election next year. Whether or not he succeeds then, the Chancellor's decision will give fresh political momentum to the drive for monetary union and closer integration. So Britain will face tricky choices which the Tories and Labour are trying to dodge in the election.

The Civil Service has, I am sure, a list of other pressing issues for the incoming government which are hardly being discussed in the election: the handover of Hong Kong to China; the Madrid summit on expansion of Nato (almost solely a matter for foreign policy specialists in Britain); the looming crisis in the prisons as numbers overflow; how to revive talks in Northern Ireland (despite the IRA's latest operations). These and other matters will have to be faced within two months of the election. For the moment, the politicians prefer the familiar evasions of campaigning. But the real world is just 25 days away.

## Free vote

KENSINGTON is fizzing with speculation on the voting intentions of Diana, Princess of Wales. She is registered, along with the other 70 residents of Kensington Palace, to vote in the Campden ward of Kensington and Chelsea, a safe Tory seat which should fall into the sweaty clasp of that old satyr Alan Clark at the election.

While she was married to the Prince of Wales she was bound by convention not to exercise her right

to vote. Now, however, she is more of a free agent, and may be inclined to take her revenge on the Tories. She has her reasons.

First, there was the Defence Minister, Nicholas Soames, a friend of the Prince, who publicly questioned her mental state after her *Panorama* interview. Then there was the junior defence minister Earl Howe, who as good as told her to keep her snout out of politics when she spoke out about land

mines. Clark's adulterous past may not play too well either on the fitness machines.

None of which has stopped the Tories pitching for her vote. "With her interest in charities, the Princess will be aware that charitable giving is growing tremendously under this Government," says a desperate spinner in Tory central office. The Lib Dem hope: the Princess will be enticed by their plans for nursery schools, but Labour will not comment. None of the parties has so far formulated plans for door-stopping the palace.

Among those caught at Aintree over the weekend was Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman and racing tipster. Yesterday he returned to pick up his car, only to find his keys were in a sealed off area. Having missed a *Dinobird* interview and most of the rest of his schedule for the day, he wandered into the road, telling a policeman he was off to do some sightseeing.

### Last Waugh

PITY Auberon Waugh, once a peerless establishment baiter, now gone soft and captaining the holed dingy of *The Literary Review* magazine. The other day, he received an



invitation to a party being held by a certain wealthy philanthropist. Waugh had been greatly looking forward to some grand hobnobbing, until he read the name on the card: "Evelyn Waugh".

For a man never fully reconciled to living in his father's shadow, this was a stinging insult. He spent the rest of the day shuffling around muttering like a Russian poet broken by a stint down the salt mines.

### Final frame

ONE of cinema's landmarks was demolished on Friday by Camden Council. William Friese-Greene shot a series of images on celluloid of Rotten Row in Hyde Park in 1890. He then projected the moving pictures onto his wall at 136 Maids

Vale. So excited was he by his work, which marked the beginning of cinema, that he grabbed a policeman off the street to come in and look, a moment recorded in the film *The Magic Box*, which starred Robert Donat and Laurence Olivier. Not that this meant anything to Camden Council.

In Paris, the home of Lumière, the inventor of the cine-camera, is a national museum, but when Friese-Greene's home was knocked down, all the council building officer could say was "Who cares? It was a very grotty little building."

### High flyer

IT used to be Sir Tim Bell or Rothschilds bank that helped aspiring Tories in need of work between elections. Now Michael Green, the elusive chairman of the media group Carlton, has joined the gang. With his current director of communications, David Cameron, expecting to keep the Stafford constituency Tory, Green has found one of the Prime Minister's closest aides to replace him.

George Bridges, 27, is currently assistant political secretary to the PM, responsible for writing many of his speeches and newspaper articles. All wispy blond hair and tor-

toiseshell glasses, Bridges, from Eton and Oxford, is a high-energy customer, and his office is entertained by an endless succession of cut-glass female voices phoning to talk to him.

A notable victory for Alan Stanford, who is directing Harold Pinter in Pinter's own play *The Collection* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin. He claims to have triumphed over Pinter in an argument over the text. As Pinter's publishers, Faber & Faber, attest, the black poloneck is a textual stilet. Once, at his insistence, they had to insert a correction slip into thousands of copies of his plays because a full stop had been printed instead of a comma.

### Eh? Eh?

DESPITE the panning handed out to his debut novel, *Sap Rising*, A.A. "Don't call me Adrian" Gill can console himself that he still has one loyal fan in the shape of his girlfriend, Nicola Formby. On entering the Pan Bookshop in the Fulham Road last week, Miss Formby, a statuesque shopping journalist, was dismayed not to be able to find her man's novel.

"She asked very loudly and ag-



Nicola Formby: snorted

gressively where it was", says an onlooker. "She introduced herself as Nicola Formby and expected the hapless shop assistant to know who she was." Happily, a large pile of the books was pointed out to her on a display table, at which point she snorted and left.

P.H.S



Ward-mates, Diana and Tory candidate Alan Clark











## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 5: The Duke of York this afternoon attended ceremonies marking the amalgamation of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve at Royal Air Force Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire (Mrs Bridget Crockett-Eley).  
April 5: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Lawrence, RN, today attended the 150th Anniversary of the Grand National at Aintree Racecourse, Aintree, Liverpool, and was re-

ceived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).  
**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this afternoon visited Tewkesbury Abbey and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).  
Her Royal Highness attended a Service of Thanksgiving for the Restoration of the Abbey and the Dedication of the Millon Organ.  
The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon subsequently opened the new Visitor Centre at the Abbey.

## Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the enhanced facility at the Windsor Leisure Centre, Windsor, at 2.30.

The Prince of Wales will tour and open the new Gordon Highlanders Museum, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, at 10.15; will visit, as President, The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, 27 Albany Place, at 11.55; to review the work of the Grampian region; will attend a civic reception at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, at 1.00 to mark the official opening of the Gordon Highlanders Museum; will tour and open The Prince Charles Cadet Training Centre, The Prince Charles Barracks, at 2.20pm; will visit, as Patron, The Abbeyfield Society, the Abbeyfield House, Torphichen, Aberdeenshire, at 3.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Heritage of London Trust, will visit Thorpe Coombe House, Forest Road, Westminster, at 10.00; will visit the Clock Tower, Caledonian Market, at 11.00; will visit St Luke's Churchyard, Old Street, Islington, at 11.55; and will attend a luncheon at Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields, at 12.40.

## Chetham's School of Music

Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. Lower School Speech Day will be held in School during the afternoon of July 2, and that evening Lower School pupils will give a concert at the Royal Northern College of Music. Term ends with the Senior School Speech Day, which will be held during the afternoon of July 3, and that evening Chetham's Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Jac van Steen will perform in the Hilda Proms Series, both events in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.

## Royal Air Force

The Chief of the Air Staff was represented by Air Vice-Marshal C.R. Spink, who read a lesson, at the annual service of thanksgiving held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand, to mark the formation of the Royal Air Force.  
The Rev Peter Bishop officiated and gave an address. Air Marshal Sir John Kinnaird also read a lesson.

## Birthdays today

Mr Dennis Ames, cricketer, 54; Viscount Brentford, 64; Miss Fredda Brillant, sculptor, 89; Mr Jean Coulton, fashion designer, 42; Mr Francis Ford Coppola, film director, 57; Mr Gerry Cottle, circus proprietor, 52; Sir Geoffrey Copley, former Editor and Chief Executive, ITN, 87; Mr Luca Cumani, racehorse trainer, 48; Professor Sir Graeme Davies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow University, 60; Professor D.R. Denman, land economist, 85; Mr Peter Finch, statistician and publisher, 50; Sir David Frost, broadcaster, 58; Mr F.L. Garner, former chairman, Pearl Assurance, 77; Mr James Garner, actor, 69; Sir Terence Harrison, former chief executive, Rolls Royce, 64; Mr Geoffrey Heywood, former president, Institute of Actuaries, 81; Vice-Chancellor Sir Arthur Hezlet, 83; Mr

D.N. Ireland, Headmaster, Loughborough Grammar School, 61; Mr Gordon Kaye, actor, 56; Mr Maryn Lewis, broadcaster, 52; His Honour John MacManus, 77; Mr Cliff Morgan, former head of outside broadcasting, BBC Television, 67; Mr Arthur K. Potter, Indian civil servant, 92; Mrs Jane Priestman, former director, architecture and design, British Rail, 67; Mr Ian Richardson, actor, 63; Mr Andrew Sachs, actor, 67; Pandit Ravi Shankar, tabla player, 77; Group Captain Mary Shaw, former director and patron-in-chief, PMRAFAS, 64; Miss Alison Shrubsole, former Principal, Homerton College, 72; Mr David J. Williams, Chief Constable, Surrey, 50; Mr Geoffrey Windsor-Lewis, honorary secretary, Barbican Football Club, 61; Mr Mark Wolfson, MP, 63.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.E. St. Malet and Miss R.L. Case  
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Sir Harry Malet, Bt, and Lady Malet, of Western Australia, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Cane, of Kirby Bedon, Norfolk.

Mr S.G. Maadid and Miss A.E. Kairis  
The engagement is announced between Steven, younger son of Mr and Mrs George D. Mandis, of Chicago, USA, and Alexandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolas G. Kairis, of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mr B.D. Peutherer and Miss M. Garret  
The engagement is announced between Brian David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Peutherer, of Huddersfield, and Marion, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Garret, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.T. Smedley and Miss J.L.V. Whitehorn  
The engagement is announced between Bill, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Smedley, of Lilley, Hertfordshire, and Janey, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs Andrew Whitehorn, of Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire.

## Marriage

Mr T.T. Tait and Miss C.A. Luffman  
The marriage took place quietly on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond, between Thomas Tait and Carol Luffman.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** St Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary, Navarre, Spain, 1506; John Elwes, miser, Westminster, 1714; Charles Burney, musicologist, Shrewsbury, 1726; William Wordsworth, poet laureate 1843-50, Cockermouth, Cumbria, 1770; Francois Marie Charles Fourier, socialist writer, Besancon, France, 1772; Randall Thomas Davidson, Baron Davidson of Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury 1903-26, Edinburgh, 1849; Bronislaw Malinowski, anthropologist, Krakow, Poland, 1884; Gabriela Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1945, Vicuna, Chile, 1889; Sir David Low, political cartoonist, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1891; Billie Holiday, jazz singer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1915.  
**DEATHS:** Sir William D'Avenant, poet laureate 1639-40, London, 1668; St Jean Baptiste de La Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers, Rouen, 1719; Dick Turpin, highwayman, executed, York, 1739; Phineas Barnum, showman, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1891; Henry Ford, car manufacturer, Dearborn, Michigan, 1947; Teda Bana, silent film star, Los Angeles, 1955; Jim Clark, world champion racing driver, killed in an accident, Hockenheim, Germany, 1968.  
Mount Vesuvius erupted, 1906.  
WHO, the World Health Organisation, was established in Geneva, 1948.  
Dag Hammarskjöld, a Swedish civil servant, was elected UN Secretary-General, 1953.  
CND supporters marched from London to Aldermaston in a banner-bomb protest, 1958.



Princess Margaret at Tewkesbury Abbey yesterday where she attended a service of thanksgiving for the restoration of the abbey and dedication of the organ

## Nature notes



**The blackbird**  
The tops of tall hedges. Most of the males will acquire several mates, and will watch over them carefully but will do little to help them. The blackthorn hedges are in

full flower, and look like snowy-white barricades round the fields. Cherry-plum is also often found in hedges: it looks very like blackthorn but its twigs are not so spiky.  
Here and there, English elms have survived Dutch Elm disease, and these now have clusters of papery seeds on the twigs. Wych elms, which were less affected, have striking clusters of large, creamy-green seeds. Wood anemones are opening on the woodland floor.

## Royal Air Force College Cranwell

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wren, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Headquarters Strike Command, was the Reviewing Officer at the Graduation of 78 officers of No 164 Initial Officer Training Course and 11 officers of No 262 Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell on April 3.

Graduating student officers and officer cadets:

**General Duties Branch - Pilot**  
Flying Officers G Duff BEng, B W Farquhar BEng, D J Fulton BA, G T Harvey BSc, C R Lynham BA, R K J McPhie AMIMEchE, N J Onnshaw BSc, R J Tomala BPharm.

**Pilot Officers** J R Barley BEng, L C Caple BSc, D R Eliacon BSc, J A Freeborough BEng, D J Grindall BEng, M R Lea BA MEng, G C Melville BEng, C J Morton BSc, M B Payne BSc, S J Staudinger BEng, D C Wilson LLB, A J Wright BSc.

**General Duties Branch - Navigator**

Pilot Officers J S Balford BSc, G E Burdock BA, G T Davies BEng, M A Galbraith BSc, Acting Pilot Officer T J Warren.

**General Duties Branch - Air Electronics Officer**

Flying Officers T G Croydon, M Melady.

**Operations Support Branch**

Flying Officers P Denny, G K Thorpe.

**General Duties (Ground) Branch**

Flying Officers S J Underwood, G K Wadson BSc, Pilot Officer B C B Thorpe BEng, Acting Pilot Officer M P Greene.

**General Duties (Ground) Branch - Fighter Control**

Pilot Officers G S Jenkins BSc, PGCE, R M Sower BEng.

**General Duties (Ground) Branch - Intelligence**

Pilot Officers R T D Hollin BSc MA, A J Siddall BA.

**Engineer Branch**

Flight Lieutenants A D Gadney BEng, N H Kirk BEng.

Flying Officers S Chapman, G G College, P H Collins, B J Dunn, C N Higon, A K Potter, C I Rodley MEng, T J Shrewsbury, T R A Strachan, G T Styles, D J Townsend; Pilot Officers R J Anderson BEng, B D Hake, J E Harle BEng, L A Newcombe BEng.

**Supply Branch**

Flying Officers DJ Brainer BEng, K Coughlin BEng, M J Place, J A Symons BSc, Pilot Officers P J Clarke BSc, S J E Gregory BSc, A W J Grist BSc, S L Kingston BA, P D Smith BA, Acting Pilot Officer R Matthews.

**Administrative Branch - Secretarial**

Pilot Officer J A Hone.

**Administrative Branch - Training**

Flight Lieutenants J C Gunther BSc, PGCE, D E South BA, PGCE.

**Security Branch - RAF Regiment**

Flying Officers R J Lane, J H Liston BSc, P G J McCarthy; Pilot Officers L M Ives BA, P R Iveson BTh, R G Jones BSc, E A M Slater BSc.

## Foreign and Commonwealth students

Ghana Air Force  
Supply Branch  
Flying Officer F Odor-Wellington BA

Jamaican Defence Force  
Pilot Branch  
Second Lieutenant M A Beck, B Creary, J P Mullings

Graduating officers of the Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant Course

**Legal Branch**

Flight Lieutenants A Mandell LLB, N J Moore LLB.

**Medical Branch**

Flight Lieutenants A Butt MB BS BSc, M T Davies BSc MB ChB, J A Huntbach BSc MA MB ChB, J B Stammers MA BM.

**Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service**

Flight Lieutenant T M Hopper RGN; Flying Officers Y Bathgate RGN, P J Stratford-Fanning RGN, I S Swain RGN.

**Administrative Branch - Physical Education**

Flight Lieutenant A J Treweek BSc MSc PGCE.

**Priewinners of No 164 Initial Officer Training Course**

The Sword of Merit, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership and other qualities and potential for further development: Student Officer C R Lynham BA.

The Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has proved to be the best all-round cadet, other than the winner of the Sword of Merit: Student Officer R T D Hollin BSc MA.

The British Aircraft Corporation Trophy, awarded to the RAF or Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has attained the highest marks for professional studies on the course: Student Officer R McPhie BEng.

Overseas Student Prize, awarded to the Foreign and Commonwealth cadet who has produced the best overall performance in leadership, officer qualities and professional studies on the course: Officer Cadet P Odo-Wellington BA.

The Group Captain Williams Memorial Trophy, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has shown the greatest improvement: Student Officer S L Kingston BA.

The Sarah Moland Memorial Prize, awarded to the RAF cadet who, during Initial Officer Training, has demonstrated outstanding qualities of courage and fortitude: Officer Cadet G J McCarthy.

The Longcroft Trophy, awarded to the cadet who has contributed most to sport during his/her IOT Course: Student Officer L A Newcombe BEng.

**Priewinners of No 262 Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course**

The Daedalus Trophy, awarded to the student who, during training on the Specialist Entrant and Re-entrant course, has proved to be the best all-round cadet: Student Officer M T Davies BSc MB ChB.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

## DEATHS

**DEATHS**  
On March 11th 1997 at Chesham, Westchester, to the loving wife of the late Bernard, passed away peacefully at home, aged 81 years. Buried at Chesham. Family flowers only. Condolences to the family. Elizabeth Allen.

## BIRTHS

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## WANTED

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## FOR SALE

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## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

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## EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

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## JETLINE

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## NOW GIVE US A CALL

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## NWT TRAVEL

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## TICKETS FOR SALE



## OBITUARIES

Allen Ginsberg, poet, died on April 5 aged 70. He was born on June 3, 1926.

Whether as a prophetic bard or a pretentious beatnik, Allen Ginsberg has survived for four decades as an icon of American counterculture. He was one of the last survivors of the Beats, a cool cabal of mid-Fifties writers who, centring on Jack Kerouac, sought to rebel against staid, middle-class convention.

"Hold back the edges of your gowns, Ladies, we are going through hell," wrote William Carlos Williams in his introduction to Ginsberg's 1956 poem *Howl*. A court case ensued in which the publisher was unsuccessfully prosecuted for obscenity. *Howl* at once became one of the most widely circulated books of the time: a bible for a beatnik youth. Its opening lines remain one of the most notorious passages in postwar American poetry. "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, / Dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn / looking for an active fix".

It was never quite clear what exactly the Beats stood for. Jack Kerouac had coined the name, playing with its punning overtones of "beaten down" and "beatified". But broadly speaking, its key writers — Kerouac and Ginsberg, William Burroughs and Gregory Corso — aimed to cast aside the proprieties of English prosody and to play with the rhythms and improvisations of American jazz. Instead, their work had a dramatic immediacy.

To his admirers Ginsberg was seen to have liberated American poetry, in the same way as John Osborne revitalised English theatre with *Look Back in Anger*. He recorded the rhythms of voices around him and conveyed his most vivid feelings in the long tumbling lines which became his trademark style. His work has now become mainstream. It is found on university syllabuses all over the world.

Yet Ginsberg never won a major literary prize. And there is another school of thought which finds his work free-wheeling and shallow — the rantings of a drug-befuddled mind. Ginsberg did, in-

deed, experiment with a bewildering array of narcotics from mescaline to morphine, from dope to LSD. Bob Dylan, with whom he collaborated for some time, once described him as a "con man extraordinaire"; while John Giorno, the poet and former lover of Andy Warhol, described him as "the founding father of bullshit liberals".

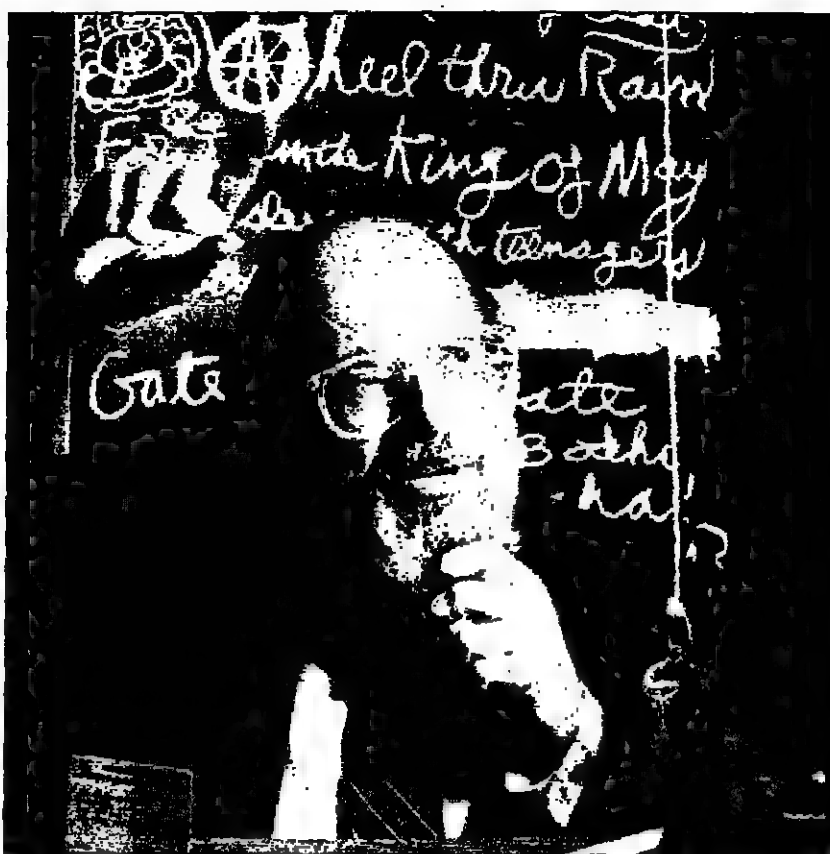
But, whatever the criticisms, Ginsberg was, as one of his biographers put it, "the most practically effective drop-out around". He was the model non-conformist, the archetypal gay rights activist, the classic campaigner against censorship. And in later age he would hold forth on any of these subjects in lengthily repetitive monologues. He virtually invented "flower power" and the fashion for bald, bearded men in home-stitched sandals.

He became something of an institution, renowned for such declarations as "poetry is best read naked" and such outlandish feats, as the time he removed all his clothing at a party, except for his underpants which he balanced on his head. A "please do not disturb" sign was suspended from his penis. At one point he spent some time learning to dance like a kangaroo from an aboriginal instructor.

Yet if his exploits sometimes appeared ludicrous, Ginsberg proved an adroit survivor. He outlived most of his enemies including J. Edgar Hoover, who declared covert war on the Beats, and McCarthy and his witchhunters. And if he saw one generation grow out of his work, a new one arose to show themselves interested. In later years he collaborated with such bands as The Clash, Sonic Youth and, most recently, Bono of U2.

Allen Ginsberg was born in New Jersey, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. His father, Louis, was a school-

## ALLEN GINSBERG



from his cot as his mother set fire to the house and when he was nine he was standing outside the bathroom door while she, locked inside, slashed her wrists with a knife. His second major poem *Kaddish* (1960) was inspired by a memory of his mother cooking him supper while she told him of her meeting with God: "the Charity of her hands stinking with Manzanita, madness, desire to please me, cold undercooked fish — pale red near the bones. Her smells — and oft naked in the room, so that I stare ahead, or turn a book ignoring her." In 1947 — long after the

divorce of their parents — Allen Ginsberg and his elder brother Gene were finally to sign consent for their mother to be lobotomised.

Ginsberg was educated in Paterson, New Jersey, and went on to Columbia University intending to become a lawyer. Although he proved himself extremely bright, he was suspended for writing obscene graffiti on the dirty windows of his dormitory. Eventually allowed to resume his studies, he graduated in 1948.

In the interim, however, Ginsberg had already started on his unofficial educa-

tion. He had worked several short stints as a messman in the Merchant Navy and had his first homosexual encounter with a middle-aged sailor. He had fallen under the influence of William Burroughs who, 12 years his senior, had a flat nearby. Burroughs had not yet written a book; it was to be Ginsberg who eventually persuaded him to do so. He had also been in trouble with the police after his flat was used as a base for a robbery. "Genius Columbia Student, Master of Crime Ring," read the headlines of the local paper.

To avoid prosecution as an accomplice, Ginsberg pleaded insanity and spent eight months in a mental hospital. But perhaps he was not altogether unsuited for the place. He had been using hallucinogens heavily — God had spoken to him while he was reading Blake, he said. He met Carl Solomon in the asylum, to whom he later dedicated *Howl*.

On his discharge Ginsberg found desultory employment on a magazine, in a ribbon factory in New Jersey and as a market research consultant in San Francisco. But then in 1954 he met Peter Orlovsky who was to remain his lifelong companion. And in that year he finally decided to dedicate himself to "Blake, smoking pot, and doing whatever I wanted to do". He never looked back.

Drawn to San Francisco by what he called "its long tradition of Bohemia", he met and mixed with such San Francisco poets as Robert Duncan, Gary Snyder and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. It was the last who, in 1956, published the poem *Howl*. Ferlinghetti was charged with obscenity and Ginsberg's reputation was made.

He went on to publish some ten more volumes of poetry as well as copious journals. He also made a number of "spontaneous films". During the 1960s he travelled extensively, including to India to study Buddhism, to Cuba where he publicly attacked the Castro Government for its repression of homosexuals, and to England where he accompanied Bob Dylan on his *Don't Look Back* tour. In London he performed at the Royal Albert Hall, accompanying himself on the harmonium. He and his friend, Gregory Corso, took the opportunity to visit

W. H. Auden in Oxford. Corso attempted to kiss the turn ups of Auden's trousers. During another encounter with a famous poet, the 82-year-old Ezra Pound, Ginsberg played him the Beatles *Yellow Submarine*. "He seemed to like it," he said. "He tapped his stick."

All over America, Ginsberg gave countless poetry readings and held "office hours" at universities. He was a presence at everything from "be-ins" — mass outdoor festivals of chanting costumes and music — to anti-war protests. He spoke out at first for the legalisation of drugs, although gradually he came to regret his involvement in the drugs scene and toured universities instead preaching the superiority of yoga and meditation over narcotic abuse — although he still claimed that LSD had enabled him to pray for President Lyndon Johnson instead of hating him.

For the last 20 years of his life Ginsberg devoted much of his time to a Buddhist college, the Naropa Institute in Colorado, where he taught poetry. His principal guru Chogyam Trungpa, whose nirvanic state never quite overcame his earthly passions for women, cars and cannabis, died in 1987. But Ginsberg continued to defend him and his somewhat unconvincing habits — which included staffing his house with devotees rigged out as English butlers and teaching his students Oxonian English "so that they would be conscious of speech as a formulated aesthetic act like flower arranging".

Ginsberg suffered from diabetes and in later years from heart problems and hepatitis. In 1970 he contracted Bell's Palsy. The disease affected his eyes which were left, as *Time* magazine unkindly put it, "one wide and innocent, gazing at eternity; the other narrow and scrutinising, looking for its market share". Perhaps this was unfair. Ginsberg gave large proportions of his money to a charity he set up in aid of struggling poets. He lived in a run-down flat on New York's Lower East Side where he ate macrobiotically and meditated daily. He always resisted being lionised as poet. Yet today his work sells more copies than it did even in the Sixties.

He leaves no survivors.

## SIR NORMAN ALEXANDER

Sir Norman Alexander, *Concinnawilli* academic, died on March 26 aged 89. He was born in October 7, 1907.



A NATURAL innovator, Norman Alexander combined his skill as a scientist with great practical ingenuity. He would set his mind to any task from designing a magnetic station in Ibadan, Nigeria, which became one of the most important geophysical observatories at low latitudes, to building the bus shelter at Redisham, in Suffolk where he retired.

As a prisoner of war of the Japanese his resourcefulness proved invaluable to his fellow inmates, but he will be most remembered for his services to universities all over the world. He was Professor of Physics for many years at Raffles College in Singapore and later at Ibadan University. He helped with the planning and development of universities in the West Indies, the South Pacific and southern Africa.

Norman Stanley Alexander was born in Mangapiko, Te Awamutu, New Zealand, one of eight children in a family of second generation immigrant farmers. As a boy he had to work hard on the farm which had been claimed from unworked but traditionally Maori lands. But at school he showed himself an exceptional scholar, too, and his family pooled scarce resources to pay him to go on to study at Auckland University.

Graduating with a first in physics in 1927, he became a junior lecturer at Auckland. In 1930 he won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study in Cambridge, where he began to work for his PhD at the Cavendish laboratory, under Lord Rutherford, his compatriot. He learned from him the valuable art of conducting research with home-made equipment on a shoe-string budget. Completing his PhD in 1935 he went on to take up a post a year later as Professor of Physics at Raffles College, Singapore.

When the Japanese invaded Singapore in 1942, Alexander's wife and family had already fled. He, however, who had stayed working up until the last minutes developing X-Rays in Singapore General Hospital, was captured and interned in Changi Jail and, later, in the Sime Road internment camp. His fellow prisoners valued him for his sharp intellect and practical ingenuity, for his humour and

scrupulous fairness. He would discuss how to maintain the intellect under brutalising conditions and he and his companions — the majority of them professionals who had been exempted from National Service — would give lectures, each on his particular expertise. His physics lectures attracted a large following.

He built a salt evaporation plant from materials which he scrounged. He also soon got a mini-industrial plant running to provide the camp hospital with surgical spirit, produced by the fermentation of rice fungi.

After his release from the camp in 1945, he never liked to discuss his time there. He took up work again at Raffles College as soon as his health permitted. Students found they could resume their studies exactly where they had left off.

In 1952 the college became the University of Malaya at Singapore. Alexander moved to Nigeria to take up a post as Professor of Physics at University College, Ibadan. Under his relaxed style of leadership, the physics department developed a broad range of geophysical research and his first PhD students went on to become distinguished geophysicists in the international academic community. Alexander also continued to exercise his considerable practical skills, whether in prising open the jammed university safe in the absence of a locksmith or milking the campus cow.

At the end of 1959 he briefly moved to Ankara, but soon returned to Nigeria again to become the first Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University in northern Nigeria, a post he held until 1966. He was knighted on his retirement.

For the next five years he became what he liked to call a "freelance vice-chancellor", involved in the setting up and planning of universities all over the world. In 1971 he was appointed to the governing body of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Retiring to Redisham in Suffolk in 1972, he continued to indulge his passion for innovation whether repairing the church or making accurate fibre-glass Roman helmets for the children's nativity play. He later moved to Devonshire, where he enjoyed the upkeep of his house and garden and sometimes hampered visitors into the ground with his passion for logical argument. He could discuss anything from the finer points of Beethoven quartets through the rigging of Nelson's ships to new ways of exercising his wife's arm and leg after her stroke.

Norman Alexander married three times. His first wife Elizabeth Caldwell died in 1958. Soon after he married Constance Geary, a Professor of Education at Ibadan University. She, too, predeceased him. He is survived by his third wife Evelyn Clark together with a son and two daughters of his first marriage.

## LADY TEMPLER

Lady Templer, widow of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, died on March 24 aged 92. She was born on July 23, 1904.

FOR many years Peggie Templer made a successful career as an officer's wife, resolutely in the background and supportive to a man who could at times be prickly. But she came into her own as "First Lady of Malaya" when Sir Gerald Templer served there as High Commissioner from 1952 to 1954.

Peggie Templer learnt to speak Malay, made broadcasts in that language, and was actively involved in every aspect of Malaya's welfare. As Templer's biographer wrote: "While Gerald had a soft and sympathetic heart under a hard and sometimes rough exterior, Peggie had a strong will and a determination to achieve what she wanted which would sometimes show through the very genuine sympathy and warmth which she constantly conveyed to all around her. They made a good team."

One of her lasting achievements was the Lady Templer Hospital on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. This began as a TB hospital, and is now a general one. She also set up an organisation similar to the Women's Institute, with the help of the Labour MP Margaret Herbinson, which inspired the Communists to proclaim: "We must be on guard against the wife of Templer and her so-called women's movement which aims at blurring the womenfolk into joining the Women's Institutes. This woman bandit is cunning."

Peggie Templer was a Devonian by birth twice over. Her father's family were merchants in Blarney in the 16th century and her grandfather was chairman of Devon County Council. Her mother, Beatrice Walrand, traced her ancestry to Devon in the 12th century. Ethel Marjorie (Peggie) Davie was the daughter of a Hove lawyer, Charles

Davie, who eventually settled in Plympton.

She was a bright, good looking and sweet-natured girl, with a quizzical owl-like curiosity in her glance. Her father took fright when her headmistress suggested she should sit the Oxford exam and took her from school, consigning her education to the hands of a governess.

Her early years were restless, and she was happiest when staying with her grandparents. It was on such a visit, at a bazaar when she was 16, that she met the young Gerald Templer, then an officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers on leave from Egypt. She thought him "a rather stuck-up young man". But meeting him again in 1924 she revised her view and after a ten-day courtship they became engaged.

The prospective union was not wholly popular with her parents as the young soldier was without money or prospects and due to return to Egypt for two years. But their devotion proved strong and on September 8, 1926, they were married, the young officer a handsome figure in scarlet tunic and bicorn.

A peripatetic military life followed with postings to Cairo, Camberley, Salisbury, York, Palestine and other military centres in Britain. When Templer was raising a new cadre in Wales, Peggie bought a thousand vests and bicycled all over Ross rounding up helpers to sew different coloured flashes on the shoulders. She also ran a social club and the men that relaxed there were subsequently embarrassed to discover that she was the colonel's wife.

From 1941 to 1945 she settled with her daughter, Jane, at Woodford, near Amesbury, and became a lieutenant-colonel in the St John Ambulance Brigade, arranging escorts transferring the wounded to hospitals. This activity ceased when it transpired that the "colonel" was pregnant with her son, Miles.

Military life was followed by the Malayan interlude.



Sir Gerald Templer and Lady Templer take their leave of Malaya, 1954

Thereafter she was a supportive wife and hostess to the CIGS, contributing greatly to his success and diffusing occasional moments when the Field Marshal lost his cool. This found further outlets as his ceremonial role expanded and he became Colonel of the Blues and Royals, Governor of the Tower of London and chairman of the National Army Museum. She was also a tireless worker for the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf and for SSAFA.

One evening in 1967, Sir Gerald was walking the dog and had thrown his wife's cape over his shoulders. Possibly mistaken for her, he was set upon by thugs, who were surprised by the force with which the "Tiger of Malaya" repelled them.

Sir Gerald died in 1979. In widowhood Lady Templer could be seen shopping alone in the King's Road, Chelsea. Latterly she retired to the country. She is survived by a son and daughter.

## AN UNABASHED VICTORIAN

I would say a word on behalf of the Victorians whom humorous young Georgians believe to have been given over to all that was ugly and banal. Now there is not, there never was, any Victorian type, as having a common character of its own, either in literature or in art, in habits or in manners. The 64 years of Victoria's reign form a period of continued growth, of new ideas, of intense vitality and change, of attempts to realize new forms of intellectual and social evolution. As a very old man who has lived through it all, and well into this wondrous 20th century, I can recall a variety of efforts during the 19th century to set up new modes of life. Each succeeding generation, almost each decade, had its own ideal or style; and no one of them was quite old-fashioned or vulgar. The view that the Victorian type was conventional and dull, and that the new Georgian type is so spiritual, strikes us veterans as a droll bit of conceit. Much of the modern

## ON THIS DAY

April 7, 1927

The author claimed to have lived in four reigns, including that of William IV, "and a very bad time it was".

jesting about Victorian prudery is concealed impatience of a moral reformation after an evil time. Complaints of Queen Victoria's conventional stiffness may be narrowed down to this — that she idolized her husband, who as a man really was virtuous, able, and earnest. It would have been better if she had given less attention to politics and more attention to society. But her conjugal devotion is not so unworthy a character for a woman.

From the first of the many Royal Commissions, of which Albert was by

no means the mere figurehead, there grew up a succession of schools, movements, and thinkers who were trying new lines of grace, culture, and thought. Were Carlyle, Ruskin, Dickens, Thackeray, Arnold, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Millais high priests of the conventional and the old-fashioned? And when Carlyle, Ruskin, and Morris were not the prophets they had been in their day, were Swinburne, Browning, and Hardy such slaves of the antiquated forms? If anyone was truly Victorian it was Tennyson; and if we do not now claim for him all that the Victorians offered at his shrine, no one calls him a formalist or a vulgarian. It is true that we do not now admire the Houses of Parliament, or the Albert Memorial, or the Crystal Palace as triumphs of Victorian art; but it is not easy to name any new Georgian buildings which are so plainly superior — not even the great Waterloo terminus. I remember the completion of the British Museum facade, and I doubt if the new County Council Hall will put it to shame...

# The Times

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## NEWS

## Martin Bell stands against Hamilton

■ The broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy. The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, meant that the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was at breaking-point. Page 1

## Cook outflanks Tories on Europe

■ Robin Cook launched an audacious attempt to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out membership for five years. The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging when he said that if Britain did not join in 1999 it was unlikely to do so in the course of the next Parliament. Page 1

Election 97: 7-11. Liberal Democratic manifesto: 40, 41

## National defiance

The Grand National will become a symbol of defiance when it is run today amid the tightest security operation at a sporting event in Britain. Thirty-six runners are expected for the rescheduled race at 5pm which will be shown live by the BBC. Pages 1, 3

## Aristocratic snubs

Britain is turning its back on its loyal servants in Ireland after the Ambassador to Dublin ordered the removal of Anglo-Irish aristocrats from the guest list. Page 2

## High earners penalty

High earners are to be fined more heavily under new guidelines for magistrates. An income of £30,000 a year is classified as high, £13,000 as average and £5,000 as low. Page 2

## Bishop for all

Clergy of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop". Page 4

## Battlefield fight

Robert Hardy, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, asked the Government to stop a property developer building on a battlefield. Page 4

## School trip casualty

A boy whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach in Belgium was recovering in intensive care. Page 5

## Ski resort 'is going downhill'

■ The world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, in Colorado, who claim its new owners are turning the resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park. Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland. Page 12

## Pet counselling

Vets are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die. Page 5

## Atlanta threat

A group claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government. Page 12

## Hutu airlift

The United Nations began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda. Page 13

## Wilson's outburst

Harold Wilson furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony". Page 13

## Thatcher's role

Baroness Thatcher is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics. Page 14

## Spy is sued

A disillusioned former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation. Page 14



Rubbish covers the Champs Elysees after the 21st Paris Marathon yesterday. John Kemboi of Kenya won the race

## BUSINESS

Privatisation: Advisers have been appointed to draw up plans to sell the Inland Revenue's offices and lease them back, potentially releasing £2.5 billion. Page 48

Yachting business: Chay Blyth is launching a plan to start a rolling international regatta that will tour the Far East and act as a platform for British exports. Page 48

Booming Britain: The British economy is now growing too fast for comfort, making higher interest rates a top priority for the next government. Page 48

Zantac: Glaxo, makers of the world's top-selling drug, have lost another round in their legal campaign to stop Canada's Novopharm from making a generic version. Page 48

## ARTS

Melvyn Bragg in Mexico: "To a North of England Anglican, all this weeping and idolatry ought to have been anathema. Instead it was impossible to resist being swept up in it." Page 18

An artistic good start: The new exhibition at the Tate Gallery looks at the drawings and watercolours behind Turner's great works. Page 18

Girls on top: Eternal, Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, gave the fans just what they came for in their gig at the Wembley Arena. Page 19

Man of the moment: Anthony Minghella's 1989 radio play *Cigarettes and Chocolate* receives a well-timed stage revival in London. Page 19

## FEATURES

Time bomb: Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they can't say where. Anjana Ahuja reports. Page 15

Mel Gibson: The understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive. Page 15

New life, new love: Jeremy Lowndes has not touched spirits since the night his first wife was battered to death at the couple's villa on the Costa del Sol and he leapt from a balcony, breaking both ankles. Page 16

Valerie Grove: A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened". Page 17

## SPORT

Cup final: A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16. Page 21

Tennis: Britain failed to gain promotion from the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one when Zimbabwe took a 3-1 lead. Page 26

Football: Liverpool missed the chance of going top of the Premiership when they lost 1-2 at home to Coventry City. Dion Dublin scored the winner. Page 29

Rugby union: Wasps, the Courage Club Championship leaders, salvaged a vital point when a try in the final minutes brought them a 25-25 draw with Bath. Page 32

Sport for all: Those with a sense of adventure and a head for heights can have a whale of a time on the ocean wave. Page 38

Sailing: One of the oldest sailing records was broken when *Nicolette*, the 80ft Grand Mistral maxi skippered by Ludde Ingvald, set the fastest time for a monohull crossing of the Atlantic. Page 39

Snooker: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, said he had "simply run out of steam" when beaten by Mark Williams in the final of the British Open. Page 36

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 3, 28, 31, 41, 46. Bonus 33. Two tickets each won £4,963,025: 7 won £436,309 for 5 balls and the bonus; 520 won £3,670 for 5; 39,177 won £107 for 4 and 842,881 won £10 for 3.

## TV LISTINGS

Preview: Snapping up bargains in *The Antiques Show* (BBC2, 8.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond sees a comedy drama. Page 47

## OPINION

## Out of the race

Republicans are attempting to blackmail the Northern Ireland electorate and the next British Government into voting for them as the only route to peace. Page 21

## Policy and the world

Labour has now discovered areas where the Conservatives are vulnerable. Some are those where Labour has traditionally taken a high moral tone: overseas aid and human rights. Page 21

## Full cycle

The creed is simple: dumping rubbish in the ground is bad; burning it is worse; the only option is to recycle it. Economics makes nonsense of most of these. Page 21

## COLUMNS

## PETER RIDDELL

There is an air of make-believe about the Europe debate. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be competing over who could add the more "verbs" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament. Page 20

## PETER STOTHARD

It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed. Page 20

## OBITUARIES

Allen Ginsberg, poet; Lady Templar, widow of the Field Marshal; Sir Norman Alexander, Commonwealth academic. Page 23

## LETTERS

Lords reform; Labour and unions; guardsmen in custody; IRA tactics; modern morality. Page 21

## PREPARERS

As long as resorting to clandestine procedures in order to keep a watch on citizens is not subject to strict and independent controls, anything is possible. Francois Mitterrand had the merit, unwittingly of course, of reminding us of that. — France-Soir

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

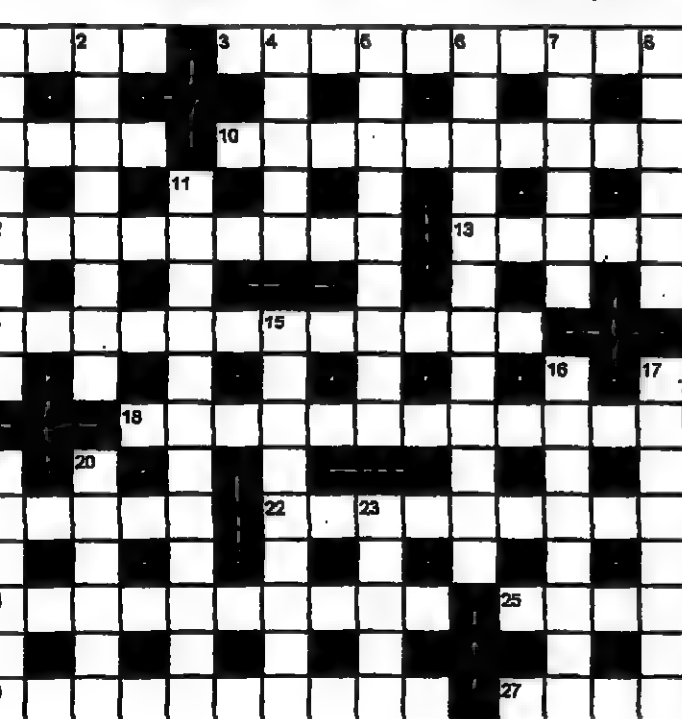
■ FILM FACT  
Making a movie isn't the end of the story. Getting it shown is what really counts

## COST CONSCIOUS

British companies are getting better at reducing costs. A 12-page report gives the latest tips



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,447



- ACROSS
- Excellent form of transport, and well ventilated (4).
  - Fall in dark beside climbing shrub (10).
  - A number backing the alliance (4).
  - Songsters from single church visiting countries out East (10).
  - Brandy and game tucked into by old Venetian traveller (5,4).
  - 'ow an 'orseman travelled to eat away? (5).
  - Surrogate stable-lad's limited accommodation (8-4).
  - Inclined to act rashly, threatening disturbing reports (7-5).
  - Firm embracing revolutionary beliefs (5).
  - Still a conductor may demand? (9).
  - About liberal reform, a Parisian is not to be trusted (10).
- DOWN
- Sporty New Zealander, though not a flighty type (4).
  - Like a vile-sounding opera, of very little worth (10).
  - Very old artist retiring without a shilling (4).
  - Weapon appears in a catalogue, causing needless panic (8).
  - In America, the permanent way to coerce (8).
  - Highly incinerated bishop leaves for game (5).
  - Meeting in the station area (9).
  - Single condition from composer and poet holding up function (12).
  - A justification of sanity (6).
  - Acquiscent types originally serving in Asian republic (3-3).
  - Dog bounds over pass with rest (6-6).
  - Get over treat (9).
  - Organised group is imprisoned after appearing on trial for revolt (8).
  - Is his display instrumental in attracting a mate? (4-4).
  - Discharge account almost entirely (6).
  - Old servant in India — one who endures (6).
  - Bishop, possibly, covering the Italian city (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,446 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have variable cloud. The east and south, after any early mist or fog clears, should have some sunny spells. There may be rather more cloud in the west, with mist there slower to clear.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy at first, with hill fog and drizzle. Western and northern parts will stay rather cloudy with occasional drizzle, but in the east sunny intervals will develop later.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands: early mist clearing, bright or sunny spells. Wind southwesterly, light. Mild. Max 15C (59F).

E England, W Midlands, Central N England, NE England, Borders: early mist clearing, bright or sunny spells. Wind southwesterly, light. Mild. Max 15C (59F), cooler on the coast.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloudy and misty at first, becoming brighter later with coast and hill mist patches. Wind south to south-westerly, light to moderate. Mild. Max 14C (57F), cooler on the coast.

Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: cloudy at first, sunny intervals later. Wind south-westerly, light to moderate. Mild. Max 14C (57F), but cooler on the coast.

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: rather cloudy with hill and coastal drizzle. Wind south-westerly, moderate, locally fresh. Mild. Max 14C (57F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloud and rain slowly clearing northwards. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: further rain spreading into northern parts; the south should stay dry.



Subscribers 1550

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT



**CUP DRAW**  
Late equaliser gives Leicester final replay  
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**LOVE LOST**  
British hearts break in Davis Cup  
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**FINAL STING**  
Last-minute try lets Wasps scramble a point  
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**WHEEL OF FORTUNE**  
Sailing back to adventure on board Endeavour  
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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

## RUNNERS AND RIDERS RAISE COLOURS FOR DELAYED RACE

- |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>ANTONIN</b><br>Jockey: Conor O'Dwyer<br>Betting: 14-1 | <b>AVRO ANSON</b><br>Jockey: Peter Niven<br>Betting: 10-1 | <b>BACK BAR</b><br>Jockey: Tommy Treacy<br>Betting: 66-1 | <b>BELMONT KING</b><br>Jockey: Richard Johnson<br>Betting: 20-1 | <b>BISHOPS HALL</b><br>Jockey: M Richards<br>Betting: 50-1 | <b>BUCKBOARD BOUNCE</b><br>Jockey: Paul Carberry<br>Betting: 25-1 | <b>CAMELOT KNIGHT</b><br>Jockey: Carl Llewellyn<br>Betting: 100-1 | <b>CELTIC ABBEY</b><br>Jockey: Brendan Powell<br>Betting: 66-1 | <b>DAKINS BOY</b><br>Jockey: Timmy Murphy<br>Betting: 66-1 | <b>DEXTRA DOVE</b><br>Jockey: Chris Maude<br>Betting: 33-1 |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|

## National pride at stake as Aintree reopens gates

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT



THE form book does not offer guidance on how bomb threats and the actions of terrorists affect the performance of a horse in a race, let alone the world's most famous steeplechase. But, as the expected 36 runners line up for the delayed Martell Grand National at Aintree today, selecting or backing a winner has never seemed more irrelevant.

After the calculated attempt on Saturday to disguise a treasured part of the nation's sporting heritage, only one result is of any significance: the race must be run. Racing, not the terrorists, must be the winner. Until now, sport, and the Turf in particular, has been protected from the horrors that have been inflicted on so many either side of the Irish Sea. There has been an unwritten belief that the unbreakable bond between the Irish and their horses has protected the noble creatures and those associated with them from terrorism. "Operation Aintree All Areas", barked out with scary urgency over the loudspeakers at 3:12pm, shattered that illusion once and for all.

As the 150th running of the Grand National finally gets under way, what

underfoot, has been trampled close to non-existence in places by tens of thousands of feet. A persistent drying wind will have eliminated any remaining ease and the ground, by Irish standards, will be fast.

Most important of all, how will the horses react to the upheaval of the past 48 hours? Routine is as important for them as for children. After being brought to peak fitness, their lives have been thrown into turmoil. Some were ferried to stables at Haydock, others were driven home; a few remained at Aintree.

If any have missed out on their normal diet or exercise pattern the effect on performance could be dramatic. "If the routine is broken, horses are likely to suffer," Nick Wingfield Digby, a leading Newmarket vet, said. "Depending on their temperament, some horses will get more buoyed up than others. But they will all respond differently."

All of which suggests the best bet is no bet but, if ever there was a time when backers must strike a wager, out of loyalty and support to the Grand National itself, it is today.

On Saturday, I recommended Antonin with confidence. Ideally, he would like easier ground and the delay has not helped his cause. However, I refuse to alter my recommendation. To do so would be to submit, in some small way, to the men who sabotaged the original race.

Each and every one of the 60,000 people who attended the Grand National on Saturday has a tale to tell; here is mine. After obtaining one of the last rooms in a hotel about 20 minutes' drive from Aintree on Saturday evening, four of us sat down for a late-night snack in a restaurant named after Winston Churchill and whose walls are adorned with Second World War pictures, posters and memorabilia.

Looking down upon us was a portrait of the great man along with an extract from one of his most famous speeches. "We shall go on to the end. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. Britain will fight the menace of tyranny for years, and, if necessary, alone." More than half a century later, the bulldog spirit lives on. Especially at 5pm today.

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Aintree chaos 3  
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Rob Hughes 35

should one expect? With no car-parking allowed at Aintree, the stands may be eerily empty when the starting tapes rise shortly after 5pm. And what of the course over which the field must race? An abiding memory of Saturday afternoon was the army of spectators who claimed their personal memento of the big day by removing pieces of birch from the fences and proceeded to carry them around in triumph.

For a few moments, it appeared as though Macbeth was being enacted, with a forest moving steadily towards Anchor Bridge, which straddles the Leeds-Liverpool canal and was the escape route for many on Saturday.

Of equal concern is the state of the ground — and not just its relative firmness or softness. All kinds of debris was deposited on the track by the departing army, including bottles deliberately broken by those claiming to be animal lovers and calling themselves animal rights protesters. Somehow, every last sliver of glass, every bottle and can, must be cleared up.

Then there is the going itself. An exceptionally lush covering of grass, which offered some protection to horses who like softer conditions



Dextra Dove, a Grand National runner, is exercised at Haydock yesterday. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

DON'T LIGHT UP

Jockey: Robert Thornton  
Betting: 100-1

EVANGELICA

Jockey: Robbie Supple  
Betting: 66-1

FEATHERED GALE

Jockey: Francis Woods  
Betting: 14-1

FULL OF OATS

Jockey: Jim Culloty  
Betting: 66-1

GENERAL WOLFE

Jockey: Lorcan Wyer  
Betting: 20-1

GLEMOT

Jockey: Simon McNeill  
Betting: 66-1

GO BALLISTIC

Jockey: Mick Fitzgerald  
Betting: 12-1

GRANGE BRAKE

Jockey: David Walsh  
Betting: 66-1

KILLESHEIN

Jockey: Sean Curran  
Betting: 33-1

LORD GYLLENE

Jockey: Tony Dobbin  
Betting: 10-1

LO STREGONE

Jockey: Graham Bradley  
Betting: 14-1

SCRIBBLER

Jockey: Richard Duguid  
Betting: 10-1

RIVER MANDATE

Jockey: Dan Fort  
Betting: 100-1

PLASTIC SPACEAGE

Jockey: Andrew Thornton  
Betting: 50-1

PINK GIN

Jockey: Guy Upton  
Betting: 100-1

OVER THE STREAM

Jockey: Adie Smith  
Betting: 100-1

NUAFFE

Jockey: Terry Mitchell  
Betting: 66-1

NORTHERN HIDE

Jockey: Paul Holley  
Betting: 40-1

NEW CO

Jockey: David Casey  
Betting: 40-1

NAHTHEN LAD

Jockey: Jason Titley  
Betting: 18-1

MUGONI BEACH

Jockey: Jamie Evans  
Betting: 66-1

MASTER OATS

Jockey: Norman Williamson  
Betting: 33-1

MASTER BOSTON

Jockey: [Name]  
Betting: 100-1

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# McGrath shines when the going gets tough

Crowd trouble, pitch invasions, animal rights demonstrations... BBC Sport has a long and frustrating record of grandly ignoring them all, of blithely pretending that the news story under their nose is not there. But the evacuation of 70,000 people attending one of the biggest sporting events of the year, not even the BBC could ignore that.

Events started to depart from the planned programme soon after the cameras arrived in the paddock. We at home had just endured the most extraordinary musical massacre of the runners and riders (a tune that might have been written by Eric Coates, complete with whip-cracks and the occasional whinny) and were just getting over the shock of discovering that neither Richard Pitman nor Peter

Sudamore knew what the word "dour" meant. That brief exchange was to be the last of the afternoon's fun.

For as the cameras followed Lord Gyllene around the ring, Pitman first observed how good it was to see the crowd packed 20 deep around the paddock, then paused and added something to the effect that such a big crowd meant they probably could not see what was going on elsewhere. As 12 million once-a-year punters thought "What?" he explained: "I do believe that there are other things happening. In fact, they're evacuating the County Stand."

Two people emerged with credit from the confusion that followed. The first was "Aussie" Jim McGrath, whose simple, calm and straightforward description of events could provide a model for any sports



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

commentator who finds him or herself in a similar situation. Don't jump to conclusions, don't set yourself up as judge and jury and if you don't know what's going on — shut up. McGrath stuck to what he saw, knew or felt and did an excellent job.

But doing every bit as good a job was Malcolm Kemp, who was directing his first National for the BBC. We never got to see the extra cameras or the new angles that he had promised us for the race itself, but we did see

how well he adapted to the unexpected turn of events. Cameras were quickly turned through 180 degrees to show what was going on and when even the positions themselves had to be evacuated, the cameras were left locked off but running. The deserted paddock was one of the enduring images of the day.

Kemp, however, also showed a newsman's desire to show it as it is rather than as cliché dictates it should be. While convention called for the evacuation to be "orderly

and well-mannered", the cameras picked out an over-excited party of race-goers happily destroying one of the fences. Such honesty was as refreshing as it was unexpected. I hope he is still around when the streaking season starts.

Des Lynam, however, was having a less happy time. Long before he was asked to leave the course live on air, it had been clear that this was not one of his better days. Nothing quite worked for him... even to the extent of having to play his own straight man with Mick Fitzgerald, the winning jockey last year. "How did you describe winning, Mick?" Mick knew, but apparently wasn't saying. Better than sex, wasn't it? "Well, I hope you've been proven wrong in the interim." I suppose it was worth the wait. That seemed to set the

pattern for the afternoon. Jenny Pitman got the better of him by chiding him to hurry up and get married. "Thanks for bringing that close to the public," Lynam replied, just a little too grumpily for it to be funny. An hour later, when his old, and now tearful, friend needed cheering up, he was no help at all.

Eventually, total evacuation forced him to hand back to a startled-looking Gary Lineker, who suddenly found himself in charge of a crisis. Given his lack of experience, Lineker didn't make a bad job of linking a lot of rough and far-from-ready match reports, but we were still left with the distinct impression that Grandstand's contingency planning could do with a bit of updating. Pete's favourite footballers — how long had that been around?

TENNIS: COMFORTABLE VICTORY FOR ZIMBABWE ENDS HOPES OF IMMINENT DAVIS CUP PROMOTION

## Black puts British revival into perspective

By Alex Ramsay

SO, IT is to the Ukraine in July — the next stage in the eagerly awaited rejuvenation of men's tennis in Great Britain. After Jamie Delgado was battered into submission 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 by Byron Black, Zimbabwe took an unassailable 3-1 lead over Britain to win the second round tie in the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one at Crystal Palace.

All Britain's thoughts of progress and promotion have been put to one side and David Lloyd must now take his squad to Kiev in the hope of staying put.

After the heroics of Andrew Richardson on Friday, who blasted his way past the elder Black brother, the omens had not looked good on Saturday, when Wayne and Byron Black defeated Mark Petchey and Neil Broad in the doubles. Leaving Britain 2-1 down, it left far too much for the young Delgado to do yesterday.

Facing the world No 46, and a man who has collected nearly \$3 million in prize-money in his six years on the ATP Tour, Delgado was stymied. He had no idea what to do next as his first service deserted him and every shot he tried headed for the backstop or the tram lines. Although he claimed he had not been nervous before the start, the nerves started jangling as soon as he got to work.

As the games whistled by, and Delgado was still not on the score sheet, he looked like a man who desperately wanted to be somewhere else. When finally he hit a backhand winner at the end of the second set, he raised his arms to acknowledge the applause of the enthusiastic, if

sympathetic, crowd. When he won his first game, he had the crowd whipped to a frenzy with sheer relief.

David Lloyd, the Britain captain, was resigned to his team's fate and understanding of Delgado's situation. He remembered his own days as a Davis Cup player, when the nerves took over. "It's the only time I've ever frozen and I still don't know why," he said. "Jamie has got to work out what happened today and learn how to stop it happening again."

What Lloyd has learnt is that, even with the best pair of players Britain has had to its name in many a long year, luck still plays its part in the Davis Cup. "We will go forward," he said, "but things were against us from the start."

"To lose both top players is a blow, a hell of a blow. I thought, when Tim and Greg were fit, that this was a great draw for us. But, for Jamie and Andrew, it was a great opportunity to play Davis Cup at a young age and I think Andrew played well beyond anybody's expectations."

Unfortunately, what the weekend's matches did prove was that, without Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, British tennis is still struggling. Take away the top names and Lloyd has to fall back on players whose immediate ambitions lie in breaking into the top 200 in the world.

Yesterday Andrew Richardson put up another valiant struggle but lost the final and dead rubber 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 to Wayne Black.

Compared with Zimbabwe, who pick their team from one family, Britain would appear



Delgado plays a backhand during his straight-sets defeat by Byron Black at Crystal Palace yesterday

to have an abundance of riches. Zimbabwe have just a handful of serious competitive players, of whom three are on the world ranking list. They have little money but a great deal of enthusiasm and, as they go forward to Thursday's draw for the world group

qualifying round, everyone is hoping for a big name and a home tie to spread the word about Zimbabwe tennis.

Black admitted that the national team lacked depth. "This has to be one of our best wins," he said. "I have been thinking about this tie for

months and I was expecting to play Henman and Rusedski, which would have made it a lot tougher." As for Britain, it is back to the drawing board for the moment. The trip to the Ukraine comes immediately after Wimbledon, and four weeks of grass-court blif and

bash. Put up against Andrei Medvedev and his teammates, they face the prospect of a slow clay court — not the favoured surface of any British man. Failure there means another tie against either Hungary or Belgium to avoid relegation.

## Zimbabwe run out of opportunities

ZIMBABWE threw away a golden chance of beating Pakistan when four of their batsmen fell to needless run-outs in their Sharjah Cup match yesterday. In the end, Pakistan were easy victors by 93 runs after Zimbabwe were all out for 94. Disciplined bowling by Zimbabwe had seen Pakistan dismissed for 187 in their allotted 50 overs.

Zimbabwe reached 39 without loss but their openers, Craig Wishart (29) and Grant Flower (14), were both run out and only Andy Flower, with an unbeaten 21, reached double figures.

A sudden outfield again delayed the start of the fourth Test between West Indies and India in Antigua, on the third day yesterday. Heavy rain had caused the opening two days of the match to be abandoned.

## Tanner justifies call-up

CYCLING: John Tanner, Britain's top rider in the recent Tour of Langkawi and named for the Dutch Olympia Tour next month, confirmed the selectors' faith in him by winning the 106-mile Cycling Weekly international grand prix yesterday on a Beaconsfield-based circuit. The Sheffield Controlware rider was never far from the head of affairs in a race that developed into a wearing-down process on the hilly course. With some 70 miles covered, the main pack of 100 split, and then Tanner eventually broke clear with Matthew Stephens before producing a late burst, to which Stephens was unable to respond.

## Kemboi reigns in Paris

ATHLETICS: John Kemboi, right of Kenya, moved away from Luckez Swartbooi, of Namibia, in the final four miles to win the Paris Marathon yesterday. Kemboi's time of 2h 10min 14sec was the third best in the 21-year history of the race. Swartbooi, second in the marathon at the 1993 world championships, was runner-up, about a minute and 13 seconds behind.



## Launceston take title

TABLE TENNIS: Launceston landed the British League premier division title on their home tables last night when they held the Sussex club, Horsham, to a thrilling 7-7 draw, despite losing Paul Giles, their No 1, with kidney problems. Chris Sladden, from Southend, who is studying mathematics at Essex University, played precision table tennis to defeat the top three Sussex men and remain unbeaten.

## Victory in trials

ROWING: Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent confirmed their status as Great Britain's top pair during trials in Nottingham over the weekend. They were followed home by James Cracknell and Rob Thatcher, the British double scull in Atlanta. Third place was filled by Tim Foster, the Oxford stroke in the Boat Race a week earlier, and Rupert Obholzer.

## Reeder makes news

GYMNASTICS: Great Britain's women gymnasts achieved success against Russia when Anneska Reeder, of Basildon, and Melissa Wilcox, from Bristol, won the gold and silver medals in the floor exercises final in an international match in Glasgow on Saturday. Wilcox also took silver in the beam finals and was placed sixth in the individual overall competition. The Russians won the team event.

## Sorensen surges home

CYCLING: Rolf Sorensen, right, of Denmark, won the Tour of Flanders World Cup race in Meerbeke, Belgium, yesterday, ahead of Frederic Moncassin, of France, and Franco Ballerini, of Italy. Sorensen, 31, covered the 256 kilometres in 6 hours and 41 seconds. World champion Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, saw his hopes of victory ended by mechanical problems.



## Funnell edges out Tait

EQUESTRIANISM: Pippa Funnell won a close battle with Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, in the Dines Hall Horse Trials at Halstead. Funnell, on Rainbow Magic, finished with 43 points for a one-point win over Tait, the New Zealander, riding Chesterfield in one of the Pedigree Churn series warm-ups for the Badminton three-day event next month.

## Mellor's wait rewarded

LACROSSE: After losing the Flags final for the past three seasons, Mellor were at last triumphant, beating Heaton Mersey 13-10 in the Daily Telegraph Senior Flags Final at Didsbury yesterday. But it was touch-and-go with the score tied at 10-10 at full time. In eight minutes of extra time, Jon Lowe scored twice and Andy Bickerton once to give Mellor their victory.

### BOWLS

## Eight and out for hot shots

NO ONE expects the extravagance of a maximum count of eight shots in pairs of fours to happen in the national finals. Defence should be tighter when there are international players on the rink, and a count of eight — where one side finishes with all of their eight bowls closer to the jack than the opposition's — is rarely seen.

Yesterday, however, at Melton Mowbray, Reading Whiteknights grabbed a remarkable lifeline when they hit the jackpot against Kingshorpe, skipped by Mick Sharpe.

Whiteknights, the 1995 champions, were trailing, 7-19, after 14 ends of their quarter-final, when Sharpe, attempting to remove shots, removed his own team's best efforts, and gave Garry Stacey, the Whiteknights skip, the chance to add the eighth shot with his last bowl.

Only four shots separated the sides at 19-15 but a similar story, this time involving a reversal of roles, on the 16th end, saw Stacey take out Whiteknights' nearest bowl to concede six.

Kingshorpe, who went on to win 30-16, now meet Stanley in the semi-final, while Cyphers, the holders, take on Cumbria.

CRICKET: KENYA CAPTAIN ODUMBE THE STUMBLING BLOCK IN RAIN-INTERRUPTED ICC TROPHY SEMI-FINAL

## Tough task for Ireland in World Cup quest

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR

IRELAND'S cricketers went to bed in Kuala Lumpur last night knowing they must score 216 from 50 overs to beat Kenya and take a place in the 1999 World Cup finals.

The first ICC Trophy semi-final was delayed by overnight rain and a sodden outfield, but dedicated mopping-up and a sensible flexibility towards the playing conditions allowed Kenya to complete an innings

of 215 for eight. Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, lifted his side to what should prove a formidable total with a second 67 off 71 balls, his second half-century against Ireland in the tournament.

Ireland won the toss and, with the outfield still wet enough to help stem the boundaries, had little hesitation in putting Kenya in. Mark Patterson, who will play for Surrey this summer, was again wayward and expensive, although he did tempt Sandeep Gupta to pull to

backward square leg to end an opening stand of 35.

A brief stoppage for rain after 16 overs gave Mike Hendrick, the Ireland coach, a chance to regroup and a switch to an all-spin attack quickly checked Kenya on the resumption. Veteran Garfield Harrison bowled three maiden overs, but Neil Doak made a more important contribution by bowling Asif Karim and Steve Tikolo within three deliveries, the latter playing on via thigh pad and elbow. Odumbe then joined Kenny

Orieno and, having scored 99 not out when the teams met in the opening round, he was the major contributor in a fifth-wicket partnership of 75. Orieno was caught by Harrison running around the mid-wicket boundary for 51, one of four excellent catches by Ireland, and Thomas Odoayo departed two balls later when Andy Patterson dived forward to take a leading edge at backward point.

To cap a fine fielding display by Ireland, Andy, the younger of the Patterson

brothers, then plucked out middle stump with a throw from long-off with Odumbe a few inches short of his ground. By that stage it was probably too late for Ireland, who had seen the Kenya captain start a late assault.

Ireland walked off knowing they could not have performed much better, but they will probably have to settle for the third-place play-off against Scotland or Bangladesh on Thursday.

SCORE: Kenya 215-8 (50 overs) (M Odumbe 67, K Orieno 99, P Patterson 4-51) v Ireland

HOCKEY: READING LIFT MEN'S TITLE BUT SLOUGH'S LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE DREAM IS DASHED

## Pearn puts paid to Cannock Ipswich reap sweet revenge

READING'S ambition to win the premier division title in the National League was fulfilled after a 4-1 home win against Cannock yesterday, although success was not as easy as the scoreline suggests. (Sydney Friskin writes) Cannock had as much of the play in the first half, but failed to capitalise on three short corners.

The temporary suspension of Kalbir Takher was a setback for Cannock and Reading forged ahead in the 23rd minute. A free hit by Hoskin was helped along by Briscoe and Grant Edwards was on hand to score.

Jon Wyatt converted a penalty stroke five minutes before half-time and Pearn consolidated Reading's position with another goal shortly after the resumption of play. Paul Edwards

then converted a short corner in the 42nd minute to enable Cannock to climb back into the game but, although Wyatt, the Reading captain, was temporarily suspended, Cannock could not add to their score. Eventually, Sanders set up Pearn to score Reading's fourth goal in the last minute.

With Reading home and dry, an 8-3 victory against Canterbury, at Chiswick, was of little consequence to Teddington, who finished runners-up. A 2-2 draw with Hounslow was not enough to save Surbiton from relegation and they will accompany Havant to the first division. Edgbaston and City of Portsmouth will fight for the right to stay in the first division in the inter-league play-offs later this month.

A GOAL in each half by Sarah Bamfield, the Ipswich striker, destroyed Slough's hopes of a league and cup double when the Suffolk side avenged the 2-1 league defeat on Saturday with a convincing 4-2 victory in the sixth round of the AEWHA Cup yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Slough, who overtook Ipswich at the head of the Premiership after Karen Brown struck twice in the second half to steer them home, must now win their final game against Hightown to make sure of capturing their fifth title.

Their confident and dominant second-half display at Ipswich gave Slough every reason to expect another victory yesterday, but they came up against a team determined to have

something to show for their efforts at the end of the season.

Leisa King gave Ipswich an early lead, and although Mandy Nicholls and Brown replied to put Slough 2-1 up, Kirsten Spencer levelled from a sixteenth-minute penalty corner, and Bamfield then struck twice to put the holders into the semi-finals.

Two goals by Claire Ferguson steered Doncaster to a 4-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield, and Clifton and Hightown still face the threat of relegation, along with Leicester and Trojans, as the league campaign enters the final run-in.

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# Leicester draw on survival instinct

Leicester City ..... 1  
Middlesbrough ..... 1

(AFTER EXTRA TIME)  
BY OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY came to Wembley yesterday, the Middlesbrough and Leicester City fans, hoping and fearing in turn that they were about to witness the grace and guile of a fine player winning the Coca-Cola Cup for the team from the North-East. They were expecting Juninho to monopolise the game with his darting runs and his passing and moving. Instead, they were left to witness a different kind of beauty.

For two hours of a largely drab game devoid of chances and so lacking in inspiration the neither team managed a shot on target in the first half, the 76,000 fans who swarmed down the M1 ignoring predictions of bomb scares at the ground watched an unheralded Swedish midfielder strike a blow for the ordinary across the world.

For those 120 minutes, Pontus Kaamark played Salieri to Juninho's Mozart, shadowing him all over the pitch. Wherever the diminutive Brazilian took him,

United humbled ..... 28  
Dublin strikes ..... 29  
Bolton promoted ..... 31

Kaamark followed, stifling, blocking, tackling, pushing, harrying, so that Juninho was thrown out of his stride.

Barring one rash challenge in the 34th minute, which earned him a booking from Martin Bodenham, the referee, the timing of the Swede's interventions was impeccable. In the 61st minute, he prevented his side going a goal down by glancing away a Ravanelli cross just as Juninho was about to nod it into the empty goal. By the end of normal time, the Brazilian was a picture of unhappiness, so frustrated that he was booked for dissent.

For some, perhaps, there is only ugliness in the neutralising of such a sublime talent, but there is nobility, too, in doing a job well and succeeding in the task even if, on this performance, at least, the Swede did not appear to have a creative bone in his body.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, may be criticised for trying to strangle a player of Juninho's ability but, ultimately, the onus lay on the Brazilian to shake between these two clubs, at Filbert Street, Juninho ran the show for the first half, bamboozling Leicester so completely that he had put the game



Robson, the manager, and the Middlesbrough bench show their frustration at another near miss at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

out of their reach by half-time. O'Neill learnt his lesson, changed his tactics and nullified the threat.

Yesterday, Juninho managed to escape his shackles just once, when 94 minutes had already elapsed. He received the ball from Ravanelli on the edge of the area and wriggled past Kaamark deep in the crowded penalty area. The attention was so tight that the ball ran away from him, but his dribble had caused such panic in the Leicester defence that Lennon could only poke the ball back to Ravanelli, who lashed an unstoppable shot into the back of the net.

At last, after all their trials and tribulations this season, the docking of points for the postponement of their match at Blackburn Rovers last December, the dismay caused by Emerson's leaves of absence and Ravanelli's occasional carping on trips to Italy, it seemed that everything would be worth it. The courageous reliance of their manager, Bryan Robson, on style over substance seemed to have paid off.

But, as news filtered through from Anfield that Coventry City had beaten Liverpool and so pushed Middlesbrough back into the FA Carling Premiership's bottom three,

Middlesbrough relaxed a little, and Leicester forced their way back into the match.

Ravanelli had already missed a fine chance to open the scoring two minutes into extra time when he stabbed a curling cross from Beck straight into the arms of Keller. Earlier, in one of the game's only clear-cut chances of normal time, the Italy striker had seen his fine glancing header from Grayson's cross rebound to safety off a post.

Leicester, who had offered little but defensive resistance and had not created a chance all afternoon, seemed incapable of capitalising on

their reprieve, but their spirit, as typified by Kaamark, saved them as the game entered the final furlong.

Three minutes from the end of extra time, with the Middlesbrough supporters chanting victory songs, Robins retrieved a blocked cross on the right-hand edge of the Middlesbrough penalty area and tried again. This time, his centre was headed back in by Walsh and then nodded on to the bar by Heskey. Claridge poked the ball back towards the goal line and Heskey reacted quickest and strongest to force the ball into the net.

The Middlesbrough players

stared at the ground in disbelief when the final whistle blew and Juninho, in particular, seemed inconsolable. Wrapped in a Brazil flag, he did not join in Middlesbrough's half-hearted lap of honour but stood forlornly in the centre circle instead. A week on Wednesday, when the teams meet again at Hillsborough for the replay, Kaamark will be waiting for him.

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K. Keller - S. Grayson, S. Walsh, S. Prior, M. Whalley (sub. M. Rogers, 105min), P. Aspinall, E. Heskey - S. Claridge. MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-1-2): M. Schwarzer - N. Cox, N. Pearson, G. Fless, C. Fleming - C. Higgins, Emerson, R. Mullen - Juninho - M. Beck, F. Ravanelli. Referee: M. Sotherton.

## Extra mile ordered on long march towards cup honour



Ravanelli: dangerous

When you have waited 122 years to win a cup of any significance, as Middlesbrough have, or only 113 years, like Leicester, another ten days is the merest shift of sand. One hopes the crowd at Hillsborough on Wednesday week sees a better match than this. On a bright afternoon made for football the players were unable to provide very much to savour.

In the case of these clubs a bit of perspective helps. When Middlesbrough was founded in 1875 Gladstone was trying to pacify Ireland, and Wagner was completing the score of *Götterdämmerung*. Leicester's foundation in 1884 was overshadowed by news of Gordon fighting off the Mah-

dist hordes in Khartoum. Their winning of the old League Cup in 1964 can be discounted. The final was played over two legs in those days, and regarded as an amusement for those below the salt.

Leicester were the relieved ones last night after Heskey scrambled a goal with two minutes left when there were more bodies on the goal line than in a Scottish taxi. The goal served as a useful commentary on the quality of the match, for there was precious little to enjoy by way of craft. Leicester had the best player in Parker, and Middlesbrough the most dangerous in Ravanelli, but apart from the goals there were few chances at either end.

### Michael Henderson says replay crowd deserves better than yesterday's fare

It was a rum old day all round. First of all, to keep the crowd engaged or amused, there was a pick-up match between teams of low-grade "celebrities" who could barely raise a gallop. This, surely, is an abuse of Wembley. Once upon a time you had to earn the right to play there.

Then there was a particularly feeble display of choreographed nonsense on the field, set to deafening pop music for the benefit of Sky Television's live coverage. So by the time the teams emerged, to the firing of fireworks, the crowd had been

whipped into the sort of stage-managed frenzy Orwell described in 1984. Had nobody considered that, with Leicester making their first cup final appearance since 1969, and Middlesbrough at Wembley for the first time, the fans might be sufficiently excited without having to endure this emotional manipulation?

For the first half there was at least the prospect of an interesting match. Leicester are a limited team but in those opening minutes they passed the ball quickly and accurately, and quite showed up their

expensively-assembled opponents. Parker settled immediately into the match, and moreover kept it up throughout the two hours, but neither he nor Lennon could really stir Claridge or Heskey into anything more threatening than nuisance value.

On their team spirit alone Leicester have already travelled far. Most neutrals, one feels, would like them to win the replay, if only for the way Martin O'Neill has confounded all expectations by keeping their heads above water in a season that was always going to be difficult. Players like Walsh and Whitlow have been around a long time, without having much to show for it. Now, if they keep their heads, they might.

For Middlesbrough it turned out to be the worst of days. They were denied victory when they thought they had done enough to win, and they left the field to hear that Coventry's win at Anfield had sent them back into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership.

At the end Emerson, that gifted midfielder, was busy spewing out his disenchantment to anybody who would listen.

One hopes that Leicester prevail but to do so they will have to keep as tight a watch as they did yesterday on Juninho, a player who has genuinely served the club. Ravanelli, of course, always needs watching. But there is no doubt they can do it.

### GOLF

## Olazabal closes on leaders

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW ORLEANS

THE extraordinary form that José María Olazabal has demonstrated since he returned from his enforced absence from tournament golf two months ago continued in the delayed third round of the Freeport McDermott Classic yesterday.

Olazabal, having got up at 4.45am, birdied two of his remaining nine holes for a 67. He was ten under par after three rounds. Brad Faxon, the American Ryder Cup player, was 13 under and Kirk Triplett, a playing partner of Olazabal's, 12 under, with Scott McCarron, the defending champion, 11 under. A 68 took Jesper Parnevik to seven under par. Such has been Olazabal's form here that victory, in only his fourth tournament since his comeback, was a distinct possibility.

The heavy rain that had moved from Texas into Louisiana and limited play to less than three hours on Saturday had gone, to be replaced by a morning of starting brilliance and clear skies. Even so, having to play 27 holes in a day was not what Olazabal wanted. Playing well was proof that his recovery from suspected rheumatoid arthri-

tis continues, however, and he accepted it with a shrug of his shoulders. "I would prefer to play only 18," he said before he began his final round. "Yesterday was a long day and today is a long day."

Though Olazabal's all-round play remained good, his driving, which has always been his Achilles' heel, was erratic. He missed one fairway with his driver in his outward half on Saturday and four more with the same club yesterday. English Turn is a punishing test of golf, with greens that are hard to reach and flags that are not easy to get at from many parts of the greens. "I was hitting it left and right from the tee, everywhere except down the middle," Olazabal said.

The rest of his game was as sharp as a pin, particularly his putting. When Olazabal putts well, as he has been here, his ball rolls across the green more smoothly than most other players'. From the moment it leaves the putter face it is possible to see that it has been truly struck, regardless of whether it goes into the hole. Olazabal's birdie on the long 2nd came after he had driven into a bunker from the tee and put his second into a

greenside bunker. Bunkers for him are not obstacles. His third stroke ended four feet away. He sank an eight-foot putt to save his par on the 6th and then, on the 8th, he rolled in a 35-footer that looked certain to end near the hole from the moment he struck it. From the moment that he walked, in that distinctive way of his, towards the tee at Dubai to play the opening stroke of his comeback, Olazabal has been calm and low-key. It is as if the experience he has gone through have matured him and made him less excitable. "I get less worked up than I used to," he admitted. "I do not get so cross with myself."

It also means that, publicly at least, his expectations are low. He said that he was surprised to win his third event, the Turespaña Masters, and that he did not expect to do very well here. This, at least, has to be taken with a pinch of salt. As he prepared to play the sixteenth round of his comeback he was 51 under par. Only two of those rounds had been over par. If this is what he meant when he said he did not expect to do well, goodness knows what will happen when he says he does.

### NETBALL

## A conflict of interests for promising Percy

BEDFORD and Canterbury were the places to be for England's elite players this weekend. Liz Broomhead's senior international squad joined their Under-21 counterparts for a training session at Kent University, while the Under-18s and Under-16s enjoyed a get-together at Bedford's De Montfort University (a Special Correspondent writes).

In the days when De Montfort University was a straightforward teacher training college, many of today's Under-16s were at primary school but now many face a conflict of interests: netball or GCSEs.

Take Vicky Percy, the England Under-16 captain. She had to travel all the way to Bedford from her home in Newcastle to attend the training session.

Percy belongs to Tyneside's Wallsend netball club which is threatening to prove a conveyor-belt of talent comparable to the Wallsend boys' football club which has produced a stream of leading players, including Peter Beardsley. But with GCSEs impending and the netball season approaching a climax, Percy's loyalties are understandably

torn. "I have to concentrate on my exam work, especially French," she said. "I want to go to sixth form college next year but, of course, I will carry on playing netball."

"It's excellent being part of a team and really good fun travelling around. In 1996 there was a big end-of-year climax with an Under-16 tour of Australia. This year there is no tour, only training sessions. Australia was great; they play a much more physical game than us but once we adjusted to their style we won everything."

If Percy continues winning and eventually succeeds Fiona Murtagh, the England senior captain, the days when exams had to be juggled with circuit training will seem a breeze. Murtagh gets up at 6.30am to travel from Essex to work as a London personnel officer all week, training every evening except Friday; Saturdays see her playing while Sundays are spent training or coaching.

However, by the time Percy reaches her twenties, netball might have emulated rugby union and turned professional. With lottery assistance, England's seniors should soon be eligible for individual grants of up to £28,000 a year.

### SQUASH

## Australian wins her fifth British Open title

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

MICHELLE MARTIN, 29, from Australia, returned to the top of the women's game in Cardiff yesterday when she defeated her top-seeded compatriot, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, 9-5, 9-10, 9-5, 9-5 in the 60-minute final of the Leekes British Open Championship.

It was Martin's fifth successive win in the game's greatest tournament and delivered her promise of "setting the record straight" after losing the world title and No 1 spot to the 28-year-old Fitz-Gerald last year.

The defending champion proved the stronger at the end of each game and might have won in straight games had her fightback from 5-8 to 9-8 in the second not been stopped by a scintillating forehand by Fitz-Gerald at full stretch.

"This is more important than my first British Open win after losing the world title," Martin declared joyfully, after the best match of the tournament.

The home interest was very much alive in the men's final scheduled for late last night. Peter Nicol's progress from repeatedly jinxed Jansher Khan, the defending champion, at the Wales National Ice Rink yesterday, gathered further gloss on Saturday when, on his 24th birthday, he became the first Scottish finalist for more than 33 years.

"Just reaching the British

Cardiff results ..... 37

Open final is the greatest moment of my individual career," the left-hander from Inverurie said. For five years, Nicol had not survived the first round.

"I had come to dread the British Open," Nicol said after defeating the 29-year-old second-seeded Australian, Rodney Eyles, 5-15, 15-12, 17-14, 15-2, in a semi-final that lasted 76 minutes. "Now I am really enjoying it and thinking it could easily become my favourite tournament."

The manner of Nicol's advance to the final, and the opportunity of becoming the first British winner since Jonah Barrington defeated Gogi Alaudin at Abbeydale in 1973, would please any player.

Since then Geoff Hunt, of Australia, has taken eight titles, Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, ten in a row, and Jansher Khan five in seven final appearances.

The 27-year-old Pakistani's approach to a sixth title was looking effortless until he ran into Ahmed Barada, 19, the seventh-seeded Egyptian, who stopped Australia's tired giantkiller, Dan Jensen, in a quarter-final that lasted just over 90 minutes.

Barada ran a rough, tough and talented assault against the defending champion, losing 13-15, 15-8, 15-8, 15-4, in 65 minutes that Jansher acknowledged may be a foretaste of what is to come. Eyles may now realise that his problems have already arrived in the shape of Nicol.

# ACTIVE

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FOOTBALL: COVENTRY IMPROVE PREMIERSHIP SURVIVAL HOPES WITH DRAMATIC VICTORY AT ANFIELD

# Dublin exposes Liverpool's flaws

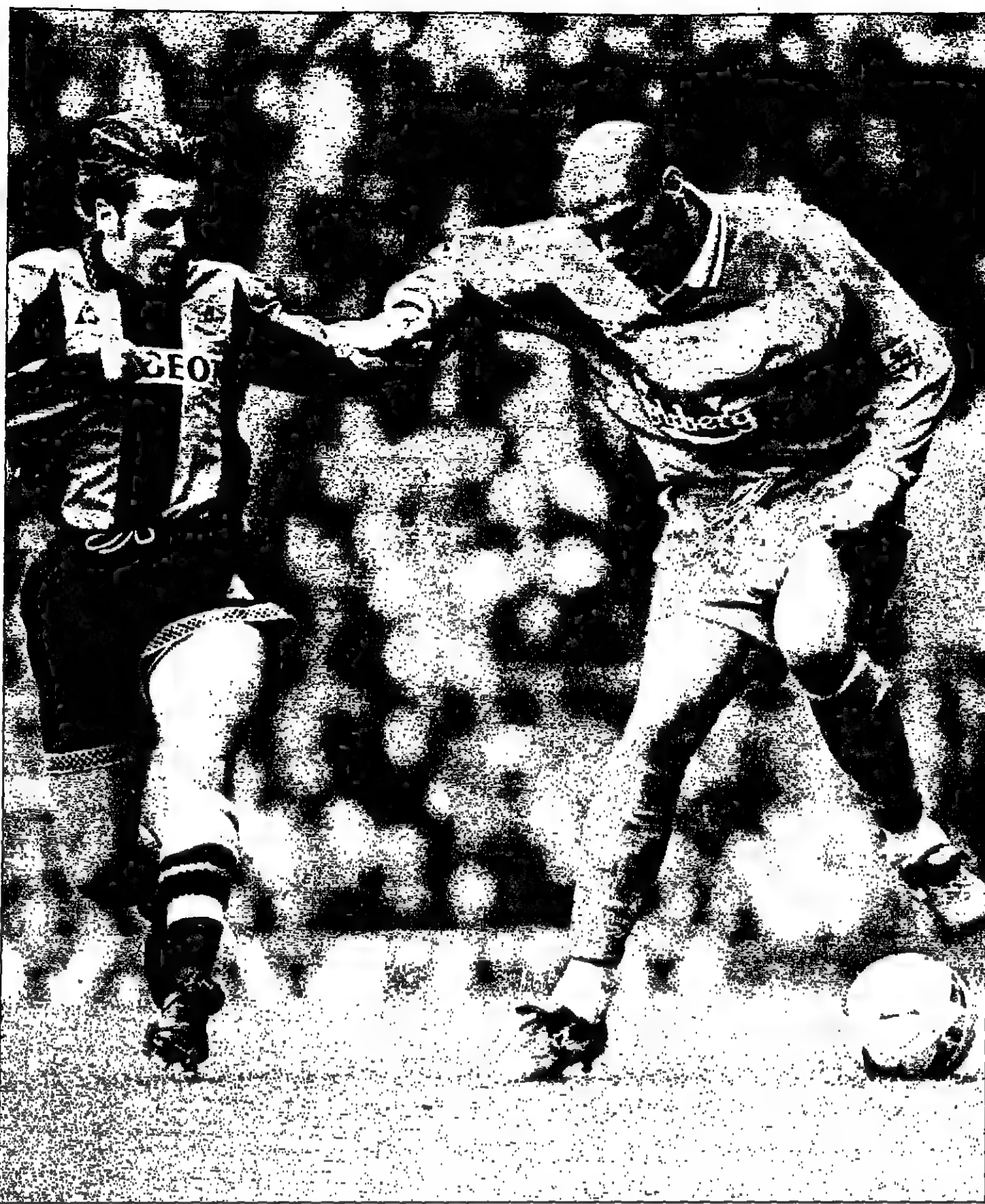
Liverpool ..... 1  
Coventry City ..... 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

SHOULD Liverpool — despite themselves — somehow manage to win the FA Carling Premiership, it will be more a reflection of the paucity of real quality in English football than of their own pedigree. Liverpool, simply, have failed to assume the demeanour of champions, despite lurking around the head of the table for so long.

What defines champions? Above all it is the ability to win matches that matter, and Liverpool — the game against Arsenal at Highbury two weeks ago apart — have consistently failed to do that. Coventry City are a poor team, yet they left Anfield yesterday almost amused at the manner of a victory that takes them off the bottom and out of the relegation places.

Coventry had previously won three games away from home all season, scoring 13 goals in 16 matches. They came to Anfield without a win in eight matches, in search of a point, yet they survived a first half in which Liverpool created ten chances without looking like converting one of them, and when the home side did muster a goal, Coventry were allowed to step up a gear and reply with two, both the result of desperately poor defending. Although Steve



Collymore, right, who squandered numerous openings for Liverpool, is challenged by Huckerby, of Coventry City, yesterday

TOP FIVE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	Pts		
Man Utd	32	18	9	5	63	36	83			
Arsenal	32	17	9	6	55	28	80			
Liverpool	32	17	8	7	54	30	80			
Newcastle	31	15	8	8	50	37	53			
Aston Villa	32	15	8	9	40	26	53			

McManaman, their most influential player, was carrying a thigh injury, one word, spat out by a disgruntled supporter as he trudged from the ground, summed up Liverpool's performance: spineless.

Roy Evans, the manager, spoke of poor defending and a lack of concentration. "We did everything right, had the chances, had the patience and then scored the goal," he said. "But we got caught out with two innocuous goals and you can't talk your way around that. It was just poor defending. It was a bit embarrassing because we had so much of the game."

Evans has paid a heavy price for failing to find an adequate reserve for Collymore. For too long the burden of attacking creativity has rested on the willing shoulders of McManaman and Fowler. When, as in this game, those two are subdued, there is little else.

It was not, as Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, pointed out, that Liverpool played badly, more that they failed to find the ruthless instincts required in these situations. "They were technically brilliant in the first half and we couldn't hope to live with them," Strachan said. "But we stuck at it, and got something from set-pieces, which we work on. It wasn't plan A, more like about plan G."

Evans was at a loss to explain how his side had once more failed to take a clear opportunity offered by Manchester United. "It's true,

they keep slipping up and letting us in, but we haven't taken those chances and it's very difficult to explain why," he said. At this rate it will be Arsenal who sneak in on the blind-side to steal the title.

The tone for this bizarre contest was set as early as the second minute when Fowler, quite superbly, found McManaman steaming forward, but the midfield player missed what, for him, should have been the simplest of opportunities.

At least ten chances later — missed predominantly by Colly-

more — it appeared the same old story of a frustrating season for Liverpool. Desperation replaced composure in their passing and Coventry were on course to become the latest in a long line of lower-positioned clubs to take unlikely points from Anfield.

Ultimately they did, but not in the manner that was expected. Seven minutes after the interval, Fowler found a finish described as "world-class" by Strachan. Barnes produced a wonderful pass from midfield and the little forward

unleashed a volley of such ferocity that it flew past Ogrizovic in the Coventry goal.

Liverpool, though, then showed a negligent disdain for the power of Coventry from set-pieces. The equaliser came after 65 minutes, when Dublin flicked on a corner from McAllister and Whelan was left unmarked within the six-yard box to steer his header into the net.

Even then, McManaman created a simple opportunity that Collymore somehow diverted over the crossbar. Berger, the substitute,

also missed from close range. However, in stoppage time, James produced another of those poor decisions that undermine his goalkeeping. Coventry won a corner and James missed the ball at the near post to allow Dublin a simple tap-in.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — B. T. Vermeir, D. Merson, S. Hendrickson — J. McAllister, J. Redknapp, S. McManaman, R. Jones, J. Barnes, S. I. Brown (sub: P. Berger, 77min) — S. Collymore, R. Fowler. COVENTRY CITY (3-5-2): S. Ogrizovic — R. Shaw, P. Williams, D. O'Brien, D. Burrows, P. Ndlovu — N. Whelan, K. Richardson, S. McAllister — D. Huckerby (sub: G. Strachan, 65), E. Jones (sub: M. Hall, 67). Referee: P. Dawson.

## Newcastle frailty exposed by evergreen Waddle

Newcastle United ..... 1  
Sunderland ..... 1

By DAVID MILLER

AN AFTERNOON that should alarm Kenny Dalglish. The worry on Saturday was less that his Newcastle side dropped two points in their local derby, than that for much of the time they were indistinguishable from Sunderland, whose all too modest season has left them close to relegation. A point for them was precious indeed.

It was a bad March for Newcastle: four defeats, including two by Monaco, plus a draw with Wimbledon and a single victory over struggling Coventry. The start of April was to prove not much better for this club bursting with ambition. For more than half the match they were a goal down, until rescued 11 minutes from time by the one accurate swing from the right boot of Alan Shearer, found loitering with intent.

"He has a gift," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, lamented. "Wherever he is in the penalty area, the ball comes to him." Limited in range though this gift may be — rather as was the devastating Gerd Muller's — it has made Shearer personally worth millions, said now to be in double figures.

On this occasion, returning after a three-week, six-match absence for another groin operation, and doggedly shadowed by Ord, he did not look worth even the interest on £10 million. Many players returning too early after a lay-off shelter their lack of fitness behind touches of finesse. Shearer does not have finesse



Shearer: scoring return

Albert now emphasised the continuing inadequacy of Newcastle's rearguard, which would sometimes have difficulty defending a rice pudding.

Kevin Keegan who achieved so much but won nothing, was let down by his defenders, not to say his system. Dalglish is trying to change the system, which has not made him popular. He will certainly have to alter the personnel. Trophy-winning teams have to be able to play football from the back, and Newcastle have defenders unsure of passing

precisely from A to B, never mind positional vulnerability often exposed by Sunderland.

Then there is the matter of midfield. Lee, replaced by Clark after half an hour, and Barry are essentially engine drivers, not signalmen. Guile tends to come from Ginola or Gillespie on the flanks. On Saturday, Sunderland's five in midfield were often quicker than their opponents in applying either brain or brawn, to the dismay of frustrated home supporters.

The inspiration for Sunderland was Waddle, as lackadaisical and infuriating as ever. He must have given psychological stress to innocent thousands during his career. Yet, he remains capable of turning a game with one touch.

The crowd booed this one-time hero vigorously from the kick-off, but that did not prevent him, in his first Tyne-Wear encounter at the age of 36, from being, in my opinion, the man of the match.

On either flank, he made Elliott or Barton look the second-division players they would have been 20 years ago, and it was his jinking crossfield run that opened the way for Gray to cut inside and beat Hislop from the edge of the penalty area.

Newcastle's wasted chances in the first half meant that spirited Sunderland might have gone further ahead before Shearer snatched his morsel as Elliott headed down Ginola's cross.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Hendrickson — W. Barton, D. Pearson, S. Hendrickson, R. Elliott — N. Gillespie, D. Barry, R. Lee (sub: L. Clark, 26min), D. Ginola — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand (sub: P. Aspinall, 40). SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): P. Jones — G. Hall, L. Howey, R. Ord, D. K. Roberts — A. Johnston (sub: D. Kelly, 82), P. Brownwell, D. Waddle, K. Ball, M. Gray (sub: M. Bridges, 73) — P. Stewart (sub: N. Quinn, 84). Referee: P. Dawson.

## Tide turns against Burns as Celtic seek to regroup

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

Failure can be so meek. At full time on Saturday, the woe of the visiting team that had just drawn 1-1 with Raith Rovers did not seem extravagant. Even in the stands at Stark's Park, where the Celtic supporters, as a matter of protocol, yelled a little abuse at their unreliable team, there was no sign of insurrection.

Yet the past few weeks might have been planned as an incitement to rage. Celtic, through Paolo Di Canio, had taken the lead in the 88th minute, but could not summon up enough resilience to sustain them for a couple of minutes and conceded an equaliser to David Craig. With this result they have now taken just two points from their past four matches.

Accordingly, a Rangers side that is slightly less accident-prone requires only four points more to win the Bell's Scottish League premier division title for a ninth successive season. Celtic's performance has slumped just when the rewards on offer have soared. They lag nine points behind Rangers, but had an opportunity to cut the gap to two in the Old Firm game three weeks ago.

Celtic, of course, lost that afternoon. If the fans could not summon up anger on Saturday, it was because they have long since ceased to be surprised. Having witnessed defeats by clubs such as Motherwell and Kilmarnock, the disbelief that lies behind fury is no longer available to them.

In the absence of uninhibited emotion, there is discussion of the changes now required. Celtic may yet win the Tennents Scottish Cup, but

disappointment will not be dispelled by that. Fergus McCann, the chief executive, has already confirmed that a review will take place in the close season.

This tends to be taken as a euphemism for the dismissal of the manager and some argue that Tommy Burns, as an act of compassion, should have his position clarified immediately. However, if Burns was to be told this week that he is to be dismissed, McCann would be accused of throwing the club into confusion when there is still the Cup to play for.

It is alleged that the speculation has sapped morale, but the side was just as capable of ramshackle performances when there was not a dispute to be heard. In any case, Celtic's appraisal will entail far more than a snap judgement of the manager and it would be conducted with greater efficiency in the serenity of summer.

Sifting the evidence will require time, for a serious defence of Burns can be mounted. In his first season, with the poor team he inherited, the 1995 Scottish Cup was won. In the second, no trophies were collected, but Celtic lost only one league match in

the season, a record unmatched by any other side in Europe.

At that point, it seemed as if Celtic, having been rescued from bankruptcy by McCann in 1994, were making irresistible progress. In attempting to make the final adjustments, though, Burns has discovered how tormenting his job can be. For the most part, the £15.5 million spent on players has been used wisely, but a substantial talent can overbalance a side.

Di Canio has had a fine season and deserves no blame whatsoever, but his thrilling and eccentric gifts have never been wholly assimilated. Players who contributed to creating an effective pattern a year ago now seem to have become bystanders who merely admire the individualism of the Italian.

There have been disappointments of a more conventional nature for Burns as well. Alan Stubbs, signed from Bolton Wanderers for a club record fee of £3.5 million last summer, can produce pieces of adept play to demonstrate his abilities, but the centre half has proved surprisingly ineffective in his primary task of preventing opponents from scoring.

Celtic are right to be concerned over their personnel, their organisation and the lack of resolve shown at crucial moments. They may decide to alter the nature of Burns's job and bring in, above him, an experienced general manager from the Continent, but the deliberations will be those of a chastened club. Celtic have learnt that it is easy to improve, but very difficult to triumph.

## When the mind wanders to lost opportunity

What can I say? It wasn't even as if we played badly against Coventry City, but once again we made exactly the same errors that have dogged us all season. We created chances — plenty of them — but failed to take them and then gave them away at the other end.

Two moments when our concentration slipped cost us the match. But, really, we should have had the game sewn up a long time before Coventry had even threatened our goal. I missed an opportunity early in the game and that seemed to set a pattern because we lost count of the number of chances that we missed. There can be no other explanation. It is not bleating, but we had no luck whatsoever.

That is not an excuse, because there can be no excuses after losing in such a manner. Manchester United's surprise defeat the day before had allowed us an unlikely opportunity and we failed to take it. That is not the first time it has happened and we cannot afford to keep on doing it if we are to entertain any hopes of winning the championship.

If we win all our remaining games, then we will be champions, so all is not lost. But we cannot afford to play like that again and make any more mistakes this season.

There was a tremendous sense of disappointment in the dressing-room afterwards. We knew that we had thrown away a glorious opportunity. But then we also knew that Coventry would be fighting for their lives, because we have faced so many of the bottom clubs who respond in the same position.

It is indicative of the way our season has gone and also of the quality that there is within the Premiership. Even the sides at the bottom can give you a game because, while they may not be able to match us in quality, they have plenty of spirit as there is so much at stake.

I remember last season when we put Manchester City down by drawing with them on the last day. There were tears in their dressing-room and they were simply devastated after that match. It illustrates how much is at stake.

Coventry knew that their Premiership status depended on this result and there was pressure on them. It is a different type of pressure, but it seems to

have the same effect. It seems to create a sense of desperate spirit in the sides.

It's strange how so many teams at the bottom suddenly start winning at this stage of the season. Who could possibly have bet against both Manchester United and Liverpool losing this weekend? I'll bet that the odds were tremendous on that particular double. But the point is, the sides at the bottom have a stark choice. They have to win, there are no more opportunities after this one.

The same can now be said of us and I just hope that we can finally learn the lesson that has eluded us so far this season.

At least we had a normal kick-off time against Coventry, if not the traditional day on which to play the game, which makes a

change. I can't remember the last time we played at 3pm on a Saturday and it doesn't seem we will do it again this season.

We have played on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and kicked off at 4pm, 5pm, 8pm and even 11.15am, which is ludicrous.

We have another game coming up at that early hour and it is the most disruptive timing of all the changes that can be made to the fixture list.

I watched Chelsea play Arsenal at that time on Saturday with some interest and it was clear that for the first 15 minutes or so neither side got going properly. They were obviously affected by the morning kick-off.

Why? Well, we played at 11.15 against Manchester United at Old Trafford and it can be very disruptive. They have switched our game at Anfield against them to the morning as well and, for the life of me, I can't see why. We have played United hundreds of times down the years at 3pm and there have been few problems.

Why this season do we have to play probably our two biggest games at such an unnatural time? It is disruptive because, for a start, you have to get up at 7am and then eat your pre-match meal at least three or four hours before the kick-off. That means dragging yourself out of bed bleary-eyed and then tucking into chicken, pasta, fish, steak or whatever.

At least the other kick-off times, when they are fiddled with, are later so it doesn't affect the routine too much. Mine is ripped up and thrown away when I play early.

STEVE MCNAMAN



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FOOTBALL: VICTORY OVER QPR CONFIRMS WANDERERS' RETURN TO PREMIERSHIP AFTER ONE-YEAR ABSENCE

# Lofty ambitions realised on Bolton's big day

ROOTED to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, 21 defeats already endured, relegation inevitable, Bolton Wanderers played Chelsea exactly one year ago today. Ruud Gullit jogged lazily onto the Burnden Park pitch to warm up before the kick-off. As he approached the Burnden Terrace, the stand containing Bolton's most vociferous and partisan supporters, he was greeted by a spontaneous round of applause. Surprised, he tossed back his dreadlocks, raised his arm and acknowledged their generosity of spirit.

This was the England of the myth: a country of gentlemen where hearts were warm and sportsmanship intact after a season of wretched defeats. Magnanimity in defeat is a glorious quality and it is right and proper that it should be copiously rewarded.

A year on, a 2-1 victory against Queens Park Rangers secured Bolton's promotion from the first division of the Nationwide League on Saturday. They need just two points from their last five matches to become champions. It is a testimony to Bolton's magnificent season that they should celebrate promotion with a month of the campaign remaining. They have lost just four times in 41 league games and have scored three or more goals on 13 occasions.

The promotion party was everything, with the match a mere incidental, which was appropriate for a nondescript game. Television cameras roamed the club car park in search of a flat cap with a quote and the giant turn of tea in the press room was empty an hour before the kick-off.

As usual, the master of ceremonies was the club's mascot, Lofty the Lion. Sassy and spiky, he has few peers in the modern game and his agents may face a busy close season deflecting offers from other clubs requiring his flamboyant touch. Watching a

Mark Hodgkinson on a joyous afternoon of sportsmanship and wild celebrations

man pretending to be a lion pretending to be Freddie Mercury has a remarkably warming effect on a chilly, windy day in the North West.

Queens Park Rangers, who might themselves still secure a play-off place, did not succumb to the mood of levity and promptly scored an excellent goal. Morrow collected the ball a good distance from Bolton's penalty area and, within the blink of an eye, it was in the net. Once more the crowd was privy to Bolton's famous philanthropy. "A lovely goal by QPR, scored by No. 6, Morrow," the match announcer said. There was enthusiasm in his voice, as if seeing this piece of skill — by a member of the visiting team — had actually given him pleasure.

Wembley stalemate ..... 27  
Liverpool stunned ..... 29

Bolton equalised before half-time when Blake's shot was parried and Fairclough stabbed home from close range. The party was back on and Lofty was already dancing on the touchline ready for his interval histrionics. The win, and promotion, were confirmed when McGinlay deflected a shot by Thompson beyond Sommer.

At the final whistle, not a single Bolton supporter ran onto the pitch and this allowed the players and fans to celebrate unfettered. Thompson, sporting a T-shirt reading "We're up and we know we are", danced wildly with Blake, while Taggart careered into Lofty and wrestled him to the ground. This was not a redempt, self-conscious affair, it was 11 men gone mad, not to mention the substitutes, management team, squad players

—paraded in their suits—and pretty much the whole town.

The sun stubbornly refused to shine. A thick buttress of cloud remained steadfast above the floodlights and the wind whistled through the old stadium. Anything else would have been unbearably Bolton had to win promotion in Bolton weather.

Lofty joined in the lap of honour and staggered as he took pretend sips from bottles of champagne. "I've never seen a lion drunk before," the announcer said before revealing that Manchester United had lost to Derby County. "Oh, our cup spill over," he added quickly.

Queens Park Rangers played their part admirably and adopted the sportsmanship of their hosts. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, was congratulated by every Rangers player as they left the pitch and a group of about 40 QPR supporters remained on the terraces to witness the lap of honour. They applauded warmly as the Bolton players passed. At such moments, the world can seem a better place.

Afterwards, it seemed churlish to ask, but someone had to, and Todd already had an answer prepared. Did he feel that Bolton were better equipped to survive in the Premiership than they had been last time? "Let's enjoy the moment," Todd replied. "We'll talk about that later." It was said without a hint of rancour. Bolton truly, madly, deeply enjoyed their moment. Tomorrow can wait.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): R. Brereton — S. McNamara, C. Fairclough, J. Taggart, B. Small, J. Pollock (sub: M. Johnson, 76min), P. Francis (sub: J. Sheridan, 88), A. Thompson, S. Sallars — J. McGinlay, N. Blake (sub: M. Preece, 80). QUEENS PARK RANGERS (2-1-4-2): J. Sommer — S. Vass, D. Macleod, S. Morrow — S. Barnes (sub: N. Quigley, 60) — A. Ince, J. Preece, P. Murray, R. Bennett — D. Doherty (sub: S. Steele, 60), J. Spencer.



The party begins as McGinlay acclaims the goal that beat QPR. Photograph: Lawrence Griffiths / Allsport

## Big bad Wolves are still knocking at Premiership door



McGhee: confident

Wolverhampton W ..... 3  
Norwich City ..... 2

By RICHARD HURSON

THE season's biggest certainty was realised on Saturday when Bolton Wanderers confirmed their passage into the FA Carling Premiership. Quite who will join them is becoming harder to call by the week.

A theory that Wolverhampton Wanderers would romp away with the second automatic promotion slot in the Nationwide League first division once they edged ahead of Barnsley was thoroughly debunked when they took a single point from four games. Simultaneously, the

Yorkshire club moved clear. Yet the capacity for any side in the first division to squander an opportunity cannot be underestimated. Success against Norwich City on Saturday took Wolves to within a point of Barnsley, who lost at home to Birmingham City. How many more twists and turns can the season absorb?

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, said: "I think the biggest hindrance to going up will be ourselves. At the start of the season I thought the goals from Bull, Goodman and Roberts would guarantee us promotion. It has not happened like that but, if we win four of our last five games, I think we will go up."

In reality, Wolves have relied on

Bull as much as ever. Victory secured in his absence through suspension was all the more pleasing. Goodman produced what McGhee felt was his best performance for the club, while Roberts, standing in for Bull, scored the winning goal 12 minutes from the end of a capricious encounter.

Wolves were ahead in the nineteenth minute when Thomas followed in a shot from Goodman that Gunn had palmed into his path. Goodman created the second goal, too: create being the operative word. He appeared to have ridden a tackle from Bradshaw in the penalty area and if his eventual fall was not quite ten yards after the challenge, as suggested by Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, then Bradshaw

still had good reason to fume as Curle converted the penalty with 35 minutes gone.

The visitors deserved better for their adventurous approach and went level courtesy of two goals in the three minutes before half-time. Wolves' defensive failings were exposed when Eddie was allowed to head a cross from Stuch towards the unmarked Broughton, who volleyed in from four yards at the far post.

It does not take much for panic to set in at Molineux, in the stands or on the pitch. Each stray pass was met with a loud groan, until Kevin Lynch, the referee, became the focus for frustration. He judged that Roberts had pushed Newman, awarding a

second dubious penalty of the afternoon. Adams sent Stowell the wrong way. The break could not have been more timely.

Thereafter, the pace of Gilles troubled Norwich. Equally, Eddie, the best prospect in the division, threatened when the home team were caught surging forward. Both sides needed more than a draw. Twice, Roberts miscued from close range, but he sealed victory at the third attempt when he slid in to meet a cross from Ferguson on the left.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell — J. Smith, K. Curle, M. Adams, S. Prosser — D. Thomas, S. Gibson (sub: C. Robinson, 60min), D. Ferguson, M. Gilles — D. Goodman, I. Roberts. NORWICH CITY (2-4-1-2): B. Gunn — D. Bradshaw, M. Jackson, R. Newman — N. Adams, I. Crook (sub: D. Mills, 78), M. Milligan, D. Stuch — D. Eddie — D. Broughton, R. Fleck (sub: S. Carey, 68). Referee: K. Lynch.

Rogers, who had initiated the sweeping crossfield move with Double, arrived in time to meet Pratt's perfect cross in front of a yawning goal, but somehow failed to connect.

The place in the final at Wembley on May 18 remains well and truly up for grabs.

DAGENHAM AND REDBRIDGE (2-2-2): P. Gormley — D. Cavenhouse, S. Connor, G. Crocker — D. Pratt, D. Parnell, I. Double, J. Brown, C. Davidson (sub: V. John, 67min) — A. Rogers, C. Naylor (sub: J. Strasser, 80). GLoucester CITY (4-4-3): D. Collins — G. Thomas, S. Ferguson, D. Kimp, McGrath — J. Hollister, S. Cooper, D. Webb, C. Burns — D. Thomas (sub: A. Mills, 15), D. Walters. Referee: G. Stamp.

## Barcelona cruise to victory

BARCELONA boosted their hopes of taking Spain's second European Champions' League place yesterday when they brushed aside Sporting Gijón 4-0 to move two points clear of third-placed Real Betis, who could only draw 2-2 at home to Racing Santander.

Barcelona, who are now within six points of the leaders, Real Madrid, who face Compostela today, cruised to victory with goals from Ivan de la Pena, Juan Pizzi and the Brazilians, Giovanni and Ronaldo.

Espanol pulled out of the danger zone with a 1-0 win away to their fellow strugglers, Rayo Vallecano, while Valencia, prompting speculation that Jorge Valdano, their coach, could be sacked.

Parna moved closer towards a place in the European Cup for the first time, with a 3-0 home win over Sampdoria. Two goals by Hernan Crespo and one from his fellow Argentine, Nestor Sensi, tightened Parna's grip on second place in Serie A and automatic entry into the Champions' League next season.

## Bournemouth left to take poor view of struggle for survival

Peterborough United ..... 3  
Bournemouth ..... 1

By KEITH PUX

THIS game very nearly did not take place at all and those who saw it say that a thing of great natural beauty had been saved for the nation. But when the local radio man from Bournemouth conducts his pre-match interview with the club's receiver, and when the home team still rates £3 at the turnstile almost as important as three points on the pitch, it is clear that sporting excellence has long since given way to survival as the Saturday raison d'être.

At the turn of the year both these clubs were in crisis, but Peterborough (debts £28 million, long-term prospects bleak) found their salvation in a local philanthropist with deep-pockets who had made his dough from the pizza business. Bournemouth (debts £4.8 million, long-term prospects even bleaker) may yet be saved by the refusal of a handful of supporters to accept closure as inevitable and the discovery of a hitherto undetected passion for football in Dorset.

Football on the brink, or more false alarms? It is not the latter, according to Barry Fry, and he should know — he has twice mortgaged his house to help his club to stave off the creditors. Managing in the football basement when Aldershot and Maidstone United went out of business

five years ago, Fry believes that the grass roots of the game could yet wither under the strongest pesticide of all: the banks.

"Most clubs are into the banks for vast sums of money," the Peterborough manager said, after watching his side win the battle of two of the Nationwide League second division's endangered species. "If one bank closes one football club, then that bank will close a dozen or 15

overnight, and that is the frightening thing.

"I know the Premiership is getting bigger and richer, but the beauty of our game is that we have four divisions and a healthy [Nauhall] Conference. We won't improve the game if half the clubs close and there are 75 per cent of clubs in the bottom two divisions who are one bank manager's phone call away from trouble.



Fry: threat from banks

## Molby's warning falls on deaf ears

Lincoln City ..... 4  
Swansea City ..... 0

By PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA City could have been forgiven if they had popped into the great cathedral on the hill before they set off back to Wales on Saturday night and offered a quiet prayer that they do not have to meet Lincoln City in the play-offs for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

It must have seemed like an awful possibility, after a run of four wins and a draw had been brought to a shuddering halt by a team playing a kind of football that is in stark contrast to the philosophy preached by Jan Molby, their player-manager.

Lincoln follow the gospel according to John Beck, that unashamed proponent of the fast, robust, direct style, and on a day made for kite flying and aerial bombardment, they simply overpowered Swansea to move within two points of the play-off places.

Swansea were unable to say that they had not been warned. Molby had told his players precisely what to expect and instructed them not to try to take Lincoln on at their own game, but his words had fallen on deaf ears.

balls, but every time one of them won it, they just kicked it as far as they could."

The pattern was set from the start. Lincoln immediately rained balls into the Swansea penalty area and the tactic paid off in the eighteenth minute. O'Leary struggled to control a bouncing ball after one of Barnett's innumerable long throw-ins and Alcide got a boot in to loop it over Freestone and into the net.

For a while it looked as though Swansea might be able to play their way back into the game, but they were doomed when they conceded a penalty in the 56th minute.

Edwards brought down Ainsworth, who got up to shoot fiercely past Freestone.

Six minutes later Stuart forced the ball in after Freestone had saved from Alcide and Brown had hit the underside of the bar, and then Ainsworth made the best goal of the lot in the 74th minute when he tore down the right and put over a low cross that Stant flicked in.

Beck was understandably jubilant. "We outthought them, we outplayed them and we outplayed them," he said. Molby remained philosophical. "There is no right way or wrong way of playing football," he said. "John Beck plays his way. I play a different way."

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RUGBY UNION: WASPS SNATCH VITAL POINT FROM CHAMPIONS TO KEEP TITLE AMBITIONS ON COURSE

# Rees stings Bath with last-minute conversion

Wasps ..... 25  
Bath ..... 25

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY GUSCOTT, the sole British Lion from Bath, did everything that one man could possibly do to win this Courage Clubs Championship match at Loftus Road yesterday. Yet, in the final seconds, Gareth Rees kicked an angled conversion that left Wasps with a share of the spoils.

If there was a winner yesterday, it was Leicester, who edged closer to Wasps, the leaders, by virtue of the point dropped by the London club and the two games they have in hand. Yet Leicester will count no chickens: tomorrow they visit Kingsholm to play

Yet Rees kept Wasps in touch. Five penalty goals were embellished by a conversion from a wide angle after King finally cracked the Bath defence in the 83rd minute of the game. Such is the virtue of experience, yet Rees is not only a scoring machine; his attacking vision as the game slipped away, proved equally significant for Wasps as they showed the depth of character that now exists in their team.

They could even argue — though they did not — that Bath scored their first try with 16 men on the field. There was a tacit assumption by Wasps that Catt would kick at goal from a penalty awarded 20 metres from the posts and Harrison, a Bath replacement, was running on with the kicking tee as Catt tapped to himself and sent Guscott to the line with Wasps gathered underneath their own posts.

Bath's alertness was in evidence again when Adebayo crossed for the second try. Catt suffered a cut mouth during the build-up and Callard, a specialist goal-kicker, came smartly off the bench as a blood replacement to kick the tricky conversion, then promptly resumed his place on the touchline. The regulations have nothing to say on this subject and Bath's tactical awareness is to their credit.

The second half was riddled with such controversy. Wasps believed that Guscott's kick behind their defence had hit the touchline before Adebayo kicked on and Guscott gathered to score at the posts.

Even at the end, Bath looked to have kept their gritty opponents at arm's length. Henderson was hurled into the corner and, though Wasps won the lineout, Dallaglio was held up and Bath awarded the scrum on their own line. The clearance would have been all but sufficient, but Hilton was judged to have dropped the front row and Wasps took advantage of the lifeline: King



De Glanville, the Bath captain, tries to keep Henderson at arm's length during the draw with Wasps yesterday

and White were held on the initial thrust from the tapped penalty but, from the maul, King slipped over on the short side.

It was such a change of complexion from the opening quarter of a match played in front of 10,500 supporters, who imparted a genuine atmosphere to the occasion. Ten minutes of high-speed, high quality rugby produced Rees's first penalty, but then the

match lapsed into error from which it did not recover.

Catt's two penalties gave Bath the lead; King levelled with a dropped goal and Rees wrenched the lead back for Wasps before Guscott's first tour de force. The ambitions of both sides never faltered but the accuracy of their play did, and Bath owed a huge debt to Lyle for recycling sufficient ball to allow them to sustain their positive play.

Adebayo increased Bath's lead, but three successive penalties from Rees put Wasps back on level terms with eight minutes remaining. Two seasons ago, both sides might have settled for the draw, but now such thoughts were conspicuous by their absence: Guscott scored at one end, but then could only sit, disconsolate, on the hardboards at the other as Rees kicked the conversion to draw the match.

**SCORES:** Wasps: Try: King Conversion: Rees. Penalty goals: Rees (6). Dropped goal: King. Bath: Try: Guscott (2). Conversion: Catt. Callard Penalty goals: Catt (2).  
**WASPS:** G. Rees, S. Rees, N. Gwynne, P. Henderson, K. Logan, A. King, A. Gormally, D. Miley, S. Mitchell, W. Green, L. Dallaglio, M. Gwynne, A. Reed, M. Wynn, C. Sheehy. Replaced by: K. Dunn (60), Sheehy replaced by: P. Scrimshaw (62). Glyn replaced by: D. Dunn (78).  
**BATH:** M. Perry, J. Silliphant, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Adebayo, M. Catt, A. Nick, K. Vyas, P. Mendes, R. Mallet, R. Mallet, G. Llewellyn, M. Hogg, N. Thomas, D. Lyle. Replaced by: D. Hilton (60), Llewellyn replaced by: S. O'Connell (65). Perry replaced by: J. Callard (78).  
**Referee:** C. White (Gloucestershire).

## Gala cup run comes to a juddering halt

Gala ..... 20  
Watsonians ..... 59

By MARK SOUSTER

TRADITIONS and family allegiance to town and club run deep in the Borders, none more so than at Gala where generation has followed generation into the rugby club.

Three Patersons, two nephews and the son of Duncan, the Scottish Rugby Union's convener of rugby, were in the squad, alongside two Changlings and two Dalgleishs. It is a sign of the times, though, that the club has to rely on home-grown talent because there is little or no money to invest in players.

That is why a run in the cup is a lifeline to the likes of Gala, whose fortunes are in decline after relegation to the second division last season and a subsequent exodus of players. In the last round they surprised everybody by winning at Currie, but only in patches did they look capable of repeating that success yesterday.

In the opening minutes looked as if Watsonians would walk away with this fifth-round tie of the SRU Tennents Cup, at Netherdale. Gala scored in awe of the beaten finalists of last season and, after Duncan Hodge kicked a penalty goal from 40 metres in the second minute, Watsonians scored a try of simplicity.

They worked a back-row move from a scrum in midfield and quick passing found Gordon Hannah in space. He cantered down the flank, drew the full back and provided Iain Sinclair with a try on a plate.

Then, as Watsonians are prone to and as they did in the cup final last year when squandering a 15-point lead, they lost concentration. A speculative kick by Bolland, the scrum half, should have been taken comfortably by David Giles. The hapless full back, who looked frail under the high ball, missed it completely and Chris Dalgleish ran in unhindered from the 22.

Chris Paterson, Duncan Paterson's nephew, converted and, suddenly, self-belief coursed through Gala. Although their attacks were limited, the half backs kicked judiciously for territorial gain,

but promising positions were squandered by erratic throwing in at the lineout by Thomson, who had difficulty finding his jumpers.

Giles was identified as a weak link and was repeatedly peppered with high balls by Paterson, not all of which he dealt with confidently. One towering effort landed on the Watsonians' line, Giles dropped it and only just recovered to prevent a try.

Watsonians regathered and with Garry and Mayer punching holes in the flimsy Gala defence, which also struggled around the fringes, Watsonians threatened to add to their try count. However, all they managed was two further penalties by Hodge in the tenth and fourteenth minutes, with Paterson, the stand-off half, replying for Gala. That made the score 10-14 and when Paterson hit an upright with another penalty attempt after 34 minutes, Gala's resistance

Melrose, the favourites, will play West of Scotland in the quarter-finals of the SRU Tennents Cup after the draw was made yesterday.

**QUARTER-FINAL DRAW:** Perthshire v Heriot's; West of Scotland v Melrose; Kilmacshann v Dundee; HSPF Boroughmuir v Watsonians. Ties to be played on April 20.

was effectively over. Watsonians added another try by Mayer, converted by Hodge, and they could breathe more easily.

The second half was embarrassingly one-sided. Watsonians scored five tries in the third quarter, through White, Burns, Henderson, Kerr and Giles, who looked far more impressive in attack and ran in from 50 metres. Fitzgerald, the prop, then added another before Swan barged his way over for Gala.

**SCORES:** Gala: Try: C. Dalgleish, S. Swain, Conversion: C. Paterson (2). Penalty goals: C. Paterson (2). Watsonians: Try: Sinclair, Mayer, White, Burns, Henderson, Kerr, Giles (5), Fitzgerald, Conversion: Hodge (4). Penalty goals: Hodge (2).  
**GALA:** M. Changling, C. Dalgleish, S. Swain, M. Smith, C. Paterson, D. Bolland, A. Johnston, K. Thomson, I. Walker, R. Rutherford, R. Cameron, R. Gray, D. Laidlaw.  
**WATSONIANS:** S. Giles, G. Hume, G. Mayer, A. Garry, J. Mayer, D. Hodge, G. Burns, M. Smith, G. McQuillan, P. Fitzgerald, C. Brown, S. Gimes, J. Wells, J. Sinclair, C. Mayer, G. Hume replaced by: P. Henderson (40min), Burns replaced by: R. Wainwright (40min), Bolland replaced by: J. Watson (60). Sinclair replaced by: N. Perry (72).  
**Referee:** J. Farrage (Berwick).

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY LEAGUE: ST HELENS SCRUM HALF MAKES COMFORTABLE RETURN

## Goulding enjoys Paris in the spring

Paris Saint-Germain ..... 6  
St Helens ..... 44

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

BOBBIE GOULDING celebrated his return to the St Helens team on Saturday by leading them to a comprehensive win over a disappointing Paris side. Goulding has been kicking his heels for two months after receiving a six-month ban for a high tackle in the Challenge Cup tie against Wigan.

"It was a bit strange," the St Helens captain said after this largely one-sided contest. "My timing was out a bit, which is understandable. That will come back over the next few weeks as I keep training and working with the lads."

The scrum half believes it will take three or four games for him to get back to his best, so he should be there or thereabouts for the meeting with Bradford Bulls in the Challenge Cup final, at Wembley on May 3.

At least his enforced

absence has enabled St Helens to shed the tag of being a one-man team. Lee Briers, his understudy for those six matches, performed admirably and, although he did not even make the substitutes' bench here, the club knows that the teenager has become an important part of the squad.

Despite Goulding still feeling his way, St Helens possessed far too much power and pace for a Paris outfit that included two Frenchmen in their predominantly Australian team for the first time this season. Fabien Devicchi appeared on the wing and Pierre Chamorin at loose forward.

Flittingly, it was Chamorin who scored their only try just before half-time to bring the home side fleetingly back into contention. St Helens had rattled up 16 points without reply through tries from Alan Hume, Anthony Sullivan and Tommy Martyn, with Goulding adding two penalties.

Just before half-time, though, they found themselves down to 12 men after Steve Prescott was sent to the sin bin

for interfering at a play-the-ball. Paris took immediate advantage. David O'Donnell breaking down the middle and, as the St Helens defence desperately tried to regroup, the ball was worked out to the right, enabling Chamorin to score in the corner.

With Anthony Wall adding the conversion, the home side were only ten points adrift at the start of the second half, but it did not take long for the visitors to exert their superiority once again. Prescott atoned for his earlier misdemeanour

with a try and others by Chris Joynt, Martin, Danny Arnold and Hume followed, with Goulding landing two further conversions and a penalty.

There were odd flashes of the Goulding genius, including a half break that enabled Prescott to score and a perfectly weighted grubber kick that set up Hume's try, but his performance really emphasised what a well-organised, professional outfit St Helens had become.

Despite a vociferous band of their supporters, it cannot have been easy for the players to motivate themselves in a half-empty stadium where a running track separates them from the crowd.

**SCORES:** Paris Saint-Germain: Try: Chamorin. Conversion: Wall. St Helens: Try: Hume (2), Martyn (2), Sullivan, Prescott, Joynt, Arnold, Conversion: Goulding (4). Penalties: Goulding (2).  
**PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN:** D. Bird, A. Wall, J. O'Leary, P. Evans, F. Devicchi, D. Lomas, P. Bergman, J. Sands, D. O'Donnell, I. Pridie, W. Siga, M. Hogg, P. Chamorin. Substitutes: A. Polars, P. Gellany, N. Hyde, J. Dunn.  
**ST HELENS:** S. Prescott, D. Arnold, A. Hume, P. Newlove, A. Sullivan, T. Martyn, B. Goulding, A. Mallet, K. Cunningham, J. O'Leary, C. Joynt, C. Miley, K. Harrison. Substitutes: V. Maitland, A. Northey, P. Anderson, I. Pockanville.  
**Referee:** S. Pridley (Cardiff).



Goulding influential

## New boys Salford stalk St Helens

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SALFORD maintained their 100 per cent start to their first Super League season with a 28-16 victory at Halifax yesterday. The Reds have now won their first four matches and are second behind the champions, St Helens, who lead on points difference.

Nathan McAvooy, Scott Naylor, Scott Martin and the £500,000 new signing, Gary Broadbent, scored tries for Salford, who were playing their first away match of the season and ended a run of three successive home victories for the Bluesox.

The new Warrington coach, Darryl Van de Velde, enjoyed the perfect start to his reign at Wilderspool, the Wolves beating Oldham 28-18. John Roper scored 16 points with a try and six goals from seven attempts to leave the Bears at the foot of the table, still without a point.

Oldham made a flying start with tries from Martin

Crompton and Francis Maloney, who converted both, to give the Bears a shock 12-2 lead, although Warrington recovered to lead 16-14 at the break. Roper tagged on two penalties before Kelly Shelduff, the man of the match, kicked ahead and George Mann put Tony Tappu over.

In first-half injury time, with Oldham down to 12 men after Howard Hill was sent to the sin bin, Nigel Vagana brushed off defenders to score. Warrington sealed victory with tries in three minutes from Mark Foster and Roper, who darted 40 yards to score from a Paul Sculthorpe pass. Oldham's Scott Ranson cut the gap to 28-18 in the sixtieth minute.

In the first division, Hull maintained their unbeaten start to the season, with a 43-10 defeat of Wakefield at the Boulevard. They stay a point clear of Huddersfield, 18-12 winners over Featherstone, and there is a five-point

gap back to Wakefield and Whitehaven, who won 21-12 at Keighley. Workington, relegated last season, eased themselves away from the foot of the table with a comfortable 30-16 win over Dewsbury.

Carlisle, the second division leaders, recorded a 30-14 win over Hunslet, despite having two men sent off. Stuart Rhodes was sent off for a late tackle in the first half and Chris Whiteley was given his

marking orders in the 46th minute for using an elbow in the tackle. Hunslet led 10-9 at the break, but Carlisle fought their way in from, leading 30-10 until a late Hunslet touchdown.

Rochdale's 24-14 win over Bramley kept them second to Carlisle on points difference, but Doncaster slumped to their sixth defeat in a row, losing 24-20 at home to Lancashire Lynx.

**THE SANYO CUP**  
1997 RUGBY UNION  
ENGLISH CLUB CHAMPIONS  
V  
WORLD XV  
AT TWICKENHAM  
Saturday 24 May 1997 Kick-off 3.00pm  
TICKETS: ADULTS £20 & £15, JUNIOR UNDER 16s £10; 17 and over £15 (incl. V.A.T.). FAMILY TICKETS: £50 (5 adults & 2 junior or 1 adult & 3 junior). SCHOOL PARTIES £7 per head (minimum 10 persons includes 1 adult free of charge). Available by post from THE TICKET OFFICE, RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE, THROCKMORTON, WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 1TE. Please enclose cheque payable to RFL or by Credit Card. Adult prices only. From Ticketmaster on 0171 344 4444.



RUGBY UNION: DEFEAT OF NEWCASTLE IN RUGGED CONTEST UNDERLINES PROGRESS MADE UNDER WARREN

# Bedford lay firm foundations to build on

Bedford ..... 34  
Newcastle ..... 28

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be days such as this again in Bedford — though not necessarily at Goldington Road, their traditional home — if good husbandry and home-town commitment mean anything. Just when the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship had virtually acknowledged Newcastle's rise to the top, along came Bedford to spoil the party and the chances are that Richmond will now go up as champions.

If everything these days has a price, the one paid on Saturday was entirely unnecessary: the British Isles may lose a wing if Tony Underwood's broken jaw does not mend in time and Bedford are fortunate not to have lost their young lock, Scott Murray, for



Popplewell: punch

the final straight. Murray saw an eye specialist yesterday to assess the damage after a blatant punch by Nick Popplewell sent him to hospital in Luton and, if Newcastle have any sense of responsibility, they will discipline the Ireland prop forward.

The experienced Popplewell swung a big right hand as the ball moved away from a lineout, for which he received a yellow card. Steve Lander, the referee, acted entirely on his touch judge's advice because his back was to the incident, but Popplewell deserved to be sent off. Happily, Murray suffered no more than a cut eyebrow and bruising, but Bedford will invite the Rugby Football Union disciplinary officer to view the incident, if Newcastle do not take action.

It is not enough for the club management to hide behind the fact that the incident was

dealt with by match officials at the time. A greater responsibility devolves on those who manage professional sport in these highly visual times and, though Newcastle may point to offences by Bedford players — late in the day there were yellow cards for dangerous tackles by Steve McCurrie and Junior Paramore, as well as Paul Hewitt's furious challenge on Underwood that dispatched the England wing to hospital — that does not wipe clean their own slate.

Murray was the most dependable Bedford ball-winner, as Sean Platford, their lock from Natal, is also injured. It is timely that they have finalised the transfer of Norman Hadley, from Wasps. At least the joy of victory could balance their sense of grievance, a victory deserved on a frantic afternoon when 6,000 Bedford supporters came to appreciate that top-flight rugby could yet return.

Bedford perceive third place and a play-off against the club placed tenth in the first division as within reach, but they know that they cannot produce storming displays such as this one week in, week out. "Whether we get into the first division or not there will have to be more buys, sensible buys," Frank Warren, their chairman, said.

Warren would have been happy to see Bedford finish in the top six this season, but the mature combination of Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, with Paul Turner, Jeff Probyn and Rudolf Straußli has paid unlooked-for dividends. It means that Warren now has to consider whether a purpose-built stadium on an alternative site should be part of his plans, so that the five-figure crowds he believes are on tap can be accommodated.

Newcastle will be concerned that, with the greater weight of possession and penalties and the strong wind at their backs in the second half, they could not secure victory. Of wider concern is the fact that a side including four Lions backs could make so little impression with ball in hand. Of that quartet, Underwood has been told that, though his jaw has not been displaced, he is unlikely to play again for a month and the Lions leave for South Africa on May 17.

So dependent were Newcastle on Va'aiga Tuigamala to take them forward that the Bedford defence knew that if they could hold the big man,



Offiah celebrates scoring the fifth try for Bedford to put them on the way to an impressive victory over Newcastle. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

half their task would be done. Thus McCurrie launched himself time and again in the tackle, closely attended by Paramore, whose combination with Straußli and Roy Winters was so vital for Bedford.

That they were prepared to infringe the offside line time and again — 30 penalties went Newcastle's way compared with 15 to Bedford — appeared not to concern them, because

they found the precious ability to score points at critical moments. Much of that stemmed from the play at scrum half of Darren Edwards, the Welshman on loan from Saracens, who showed great vision and good hands in everything he did as well as securing a try on the stroke of half-time.

His pass sent Paramore free to send Hewitt over for the first try after Rayer and

Andrew had exchanged penalties. He was involved again when Paramore and Straußli drove downfield and Turner's soft pass sent Whetstone careering free for his thirteenth try of the season in league and cup. Though Andrew floated two penalties down the wind, Bedford had the perfect response when Boyd, their Irish prop, was driven over.

A 20-point lead going into the final quarter set the scene

for a rearguard action of the highest quality. Tuigamala set Tait free, Lam crossed for a second Newcastle try and suddenly the gap was down to six points; then the smoothest of passing by Paramore and McCurrie gave Offiah a sniff of the line and he needed no second invitation. That Graham scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time mattered not a jot to Bedford, or to their baying crowd.

SCORES: Bedford: Tries: Hewitt, Edwards, Whetstone, Boyd, Offiah, Conversion: Rayer (3). Penalty goals: Rayer (3). Newcastle: Tries: Tait, Lam, Graham. Conversion: Andrew (2). Penalty goals: Andrew (3). Bedford: M. Rayer, P. Hewitt, B. Whetstone, S. McCurrie, M. Offiah, P. Turner, D. Edwards, C. Boyd, P. Paramore, J. Probyn, R. Winters, S. Murray, N. Hadley, J. Paramore, R. Straußli, M. Murray replaced by M. Deane (40m), S. Murray replaced by N. McCann (77). Newcastle: T. Simpson, J. Bentley, A. Tait, V. Tuigamala, J. Underwood, R. Andrew, G. Armstrong, N. Popplewell, R. Needles, G. Graham, S. O'Neill, G. Archer, G. Wier, R. Arnold, R. Lam, Underwood replaced by G. Childs (53), O'Neill temporarily replaced by H. Vuyyuri (30-40). Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

## Leicester's second-string make poor Orrell look like amateurs

Leicester ..... 36  
Orrell ..... 14

By ALISON KERVIN

IT IS difficult to be harsh about Orrell: almost politically incorrect. The northern team have come to hold such a unique place in the public's affections because of their reluctance to bow to the demands of professionalism that criticising them is like denouncing nurses.

But this is a professional era and the consequences of Orrell's decision to sit tight while the winds of change blow all around them are becoming clearer. Orrell play with guts and determination, with heart and soul, and they challenge their opponents — but they rarely win. And for that reason they are adrift at the bottom of the Courage League first division.

On Saturday, Leicester, one of the title contenders, chose initially to rest some newly-selected British

Lions at the risk of not nudging up their precious points difference, which could prove crucial by the end of the season. Orrell undoubtedly derived benefit from the diminution of Leicester's front row, allowing them to give the Midlands side a few scares in the scrums.

Leicester took the lead, however, which they never relinquished, after just five minutes when Rob Liley, the stand-off half, put Niall Malone away for a try. Then came the try of the match — Bill Drake-Lee made an initial break, well supported by his forwards, before shipping the ball out to Craig Joiner to pass to Steve Hackney to score. Orrell replied through scrum half Steve Cook, who took the ball over after a bullish run from Michael Worsley.

Rory Underwood ended a poor first quarter — dropping passes in the drizzling rain — by taking a well-timed pass from Neil Back and sprinting for the line. Leicester made it four when Matt Poole went over.

In the second half, Leicester's

attempts to pile on the points were curtailed by strong Orrell defence, but Malone got his second try of the day and Joiner capped a good performance in the centre with Leicester's sixth. Orrell managed just one score in return — a penalty try after Dean Richards was caught unbound at the back of the scrum.

In the 67th minute, Orrell could only stand and gaze as Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, led Dean Richards, Austin Healey and Graham Rowntree on to the pitch as Leicester's replacements.

SCORES: Leicester: Tries: Malone (2), Hackney, Underwood, Poole, Joiner. Conversions: J. Liley (3). Orrell: Tries: Cook. Penalty try: Conversions: McCutcheon (2). Leicester: J. Liley, S. Hackney, N. Malone, C. Joiner, R. Underwood, R. Liley, A. Richards, D. Liley, D. West, D. Garton, B. Drake-Lee, M. Plummer, M. Poole, E. Miller, N. Back, Miller replaced by D. Richards (40m), Fletcher replaced by M. Johnson (47), Garton replaced by G. Rowntree (77), Underwood replaced by P. Delany (74). Orrell: D. Liley, J. Healey, P. Hume, J. Tuigamala, M. Heslop, M. McCarthy, S. Cook, M. Worsley, N. Michen, Turner, A. Bennett, P. Rees, C. Bentley, R. Higgs, P. Anderson, Hadden replaced by A. Mather (42), Bentley replaced by J. Hurley (42), Lyon replaced by R. Hinchmough (74), Cook replaced by R. Saverny (75). Referee: S. Percy (Nottingham).

## Mapletoft sinks Saracens' sad stars with last-ditch strikes

Gloucester ..... 9  
Saracens ..... 6

By BRYAN STILES

TRIUMPHANT Gloucester supporters could not resist the temptation to sing a few choruses of "What a waste of money" as the costly multinational Saracens team trudged off having had victory snatched from their grasp in the dying minutes of this Courage Clubs Championship match at Kingsholm on Saturday.

Gloucester's rugged, home-grown team had more than matched their cosmopolitan rivals in a rousing finale that saw Mark Mapletoft, their stand-off half, collect two dropped goals, the first to level the scores and the second to secure victory, all in the last seven minutes.

The result pulls Gloucester a little farther away from the relegation that seemed inevitable earlier in the season. It also put a dent in Saracens' hopes of finishing in the

league's top four, which would bring them a place in the European Cup next season.

Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, reckons his team need another two points to be sure of retaining their status and is confident they will get them when they meet Leicester tomorrow at Kingsholm. Motivation will be no problem for his players after the way Leicester beat them in the Pilkington Cup semi-final a week ago.

On Saturday Gloucester, despite their full-blooded display, looked for most of the game as if they were going to lose, particularly as they faced such a firmament of costly stars who always seemed about to explode into try-scoring action. Saracens fielded eight internationals, including Francois Pienaar (South Africa), Philippe Sella (France) and Tony Daly (Australia). More importantly, they paraded the talents of Richard Hill, of England, the pick of them all.

With their array of talent and

territorial advantage, Saracens should not have had to suffer the Gloucester taunts, but they hung their heads, especially when Pienaar, the "Mr Clean" of rugby, was issued with a yellow card for foul play in the second half.

One player who had a smile on his face for most of the game was Dave Sims, the Gloucester captain, whose wife, Julie, gave birth to their first baby, Nathaniel, in hospital at 2.10pm, leaving Sims with just enough time to make the kick-off.

Tunningley and Lee kicked penalty goals for Saracens and Mapletoft replied with a penalty goal and two dropped goals.

SCORES: Gloucester: Dropped goals: Mapletoft (2). Penalty goal: Mapletoft. Saracens: Penalty goals: Tunningley, Lee. Gloucester: C. Tait, M. Peters, C. Emmerson, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Mapletoft, S. Bennett, T. Winks, P. Gwynne, A. Dawson, P. Glynne, R. Fidler, D. Sims, N. Carter, S. Devereux, Winks replaced by T. Woodman (53m), Delling replaced by A. Lumsden (65), Glynne replaced by A. Bentley (40). Saracens: A. Tunningley, K. Chesney, P. Sella, S. Bennett, R. Hill, A. Lee, K. Bracken, T. Daly, G. Bosterman, P. Wallace, J. Green, F. Pienaar, A. Cooney, R. Hill, A. Dwyer, Sella replaced by K. Sonnet (50), Green replaced by F. Pienaar (52), Daly replaced by A. Oller (74). Referee: A. Houston (Berkshire).

## Sale bargaining on European windfall

West Hartlepool ..... 22  
Sale ..... 43

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS MUCH as reaching the Pilkington Cup final next month means to Sale, their sights are set on greater riches in Europe next season. To achieve them, they need to beat the three teams above them in their six remaining Courage Clubs Championship fixtures, which is by no means impossible given the mood that they are in.

However, the wear and tear on a small squad was showing at Brierion Lane on Saturday, despite the euphoric nature of a third win in eight days. West Hartlepool threatened an upset when they recovered from 19-3 down to 19-7. Predictably, they fell apart again and are now perched above the relegation trapdoor.

West's hopes of avoiding second division rugby next season are slim. As well as

they can play in patches there is an infuriating inconsistency about them: as solid and creative as the back row of Earnshaw and Morgan Ions, Earnshaw and Morgan Ions were nowhere to be seen in the try off a scrum by Mannix that swung the match Sale's way again.

Dewi Morris, wayward up to that point, laid on Mannix's all-important try, then put Bein away for the second of his three scores and plundered one himself in a runaway finish for the Manchester team.

SCORES: West Hartlepool: Tries: S. John (1), Penalty goals: C. John (4), Sale: Tries: Sean (2), Mitchell, Rees, Mannix, D. Morris. Conversions: Mannix (4). West Hartlepool: K. O'Connell, S. John, J. Connolly, A. Knowles, G. Tinsley, C. John, B. Ryan, D. Barnes, A. Peacock, W. de Jonge, J. Jones, C. Murphy, J. Francis, R. Earnshaw, I. Morgan, Peacock replaced by M. Kennedy (40m), Francis replaced by G. Rowlands (48), Ions replaced by D. Mitchell (68). Sale: J. Mullender, D. Rees, J. Baggott, A. Mannix, S. Morris, D. Morris, M. Hadley, L. Hewson, A. Smith, D. Evans, J. Prewett, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, J. Mitchell, O'Grady replaced by A. Mann (33), Ions replaced by A. Tait (50), Mitchell replaced by P. Sanderson (77). Referee: N. Cousins (London).

## Bristol's outlook brighter

Bristol ..... 20  
Northampton ..... 11

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

DOWN among the dead men, something stirs. Bristol may still be red-hot favourites for a relegation play-off place, and they would need to win four of their last five games to have a chance of avoiding it, but this second successive victory in the Courage Clubs Championship suggests that they might, at last, be heading in the right direction.

Certainly, a two-leg play-off meeting with their former captain, Derek Eves, and his Coventry team-mates next month will seem a lot more palatable if they can sustain this run of improved form.

Bristol have restructured their off-field activities, promoting David Tyler, another former captain, to chief executive. Meanwhile, Alan Davies, the coach, has concentrated on the development of his younger players. And the signs are encouraging.

Without Regan and Shaw, their two British Lions, but with a strong wind at their backs, Bristol led a distinctly lacklustre Northampton 20-3 at the break. Rollitt scored the first try from a rolling maul after a tattered penalty and the impressive Corry broke and fed Waters for the second three minutes later. Burke converted both and kicked two penalties to pass 250 points for the season.

Northampton roused themselves after the break and spent much of the second half within reach of the Bristol line. The tacking in defence was resolute, however, and Townsend, at stand-off half in the absence of Grayson, missed three penalty kicks, which effectively prevented Northampton getting back into the game.

Hunter's late try reduced the deficit, but Northampton, with four British Lions among those present, wore the look of a side with their minds on other things. "We didn't do ourselves justice," Ian McGeechan, the North-

ampton director of rugby, said. "We had chances, but we didn't take them."

If Bristol are to avoid the play-offs, it could well be at Northampton's expense. "There are a lot of key games to come," McGeechan said.

Rodder went off early with a neck injury, Townsend was a disappointing goalkicker and Dawson emphatically lost the scrum-half battle to a former Lion in Robert Jones. Bristol know they have a battle in prospect but, with the South Africa tour looming, it would be all too easy for some Northampton players to forget the job in hand. It could yet be a testing few weeks for McGeechan's men.

SCORES: Bristol: Tries: Rollitt, Waters. Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (2). Northampton: Try: Hunter. Penalty goals: Townsend (2). Bristol: J. Llewellyn, D. Tait, F. Waters, K. Moggie, B. Bessie, P. Butler, R. Jones, D. Williams, B. McConnell, K. Fullam, M. Corry, P. Adams, C. Eagle, R. Collins, E. Pollard, Rollitt replaced by D. Corney (40m), Jones replaced by R. Smith (75). Northampton: J. Hunter, M. Beak, J. Bell, M. Allen, N. Thompson, G. Townsend, M. Dawson, M. Waller, A. Clarke, M. Stewart, T. Rodder, J. Phillips, J. Chandler, J. Wright, G. Sully, Bell replaced by E. Cohen (33), Chandler replaced by S. Poole (51), Rodder replaced by C. Johnson (78). Referee: J. Pearson (Cleveland).

## Irish slam brakes on Harlequins' journey

London Irish ..... 20  
Harlequins ..... 19

By PETER BILLS

THE price that Harlequins may pay for this defeat has yet to be calculated and, indeed, the surprising defeat of Saracens at Gloucester spared them an even worse outcome to the weekend.

But if Harlequins miss a place in the European Cup via a top-four finish in the Courage Clubs Championship, then the ramifications will be severe. What was known even before this reversal on Saturday was that Harlequins are releasing eight players and seeking to recruit five or six new men. Those figures may be adjusted in the light of their second serious defeat in consecutive weeks.

Harlequins established a 13-0 lead within the first 15 minutes at Sunbury and then selected cruise control. Little more than an hour later, they

were coming to terms with one of the most significant upsets of the season.

The spirited Irish were allowed to destroy any pattern to the game through the commitment optimised by players such as Dawson, O'Connell, Fulcher and Bishop.

With Harlequins leading 19-13, Irish launched a late attack. Humphreys made the half-break and O'Shea forced his way over near the posts. Humphreys' conversion was greeted with a tumultuous roar.

SCORES: London Irish: Tries: Walsh, O'Shea. Conversions: Humphreys (2). Penalty goals: Humphreys (2). Harlequins: Tries: Chapman, Conners, Lacey. Penalty goals: Lacey (2). Dropped goal: Lacey. London Irish: C. O'Shea, N. Woods, J. Bishop, N. Burrows, R. Humphreys, N. Hogan, J. Fitzpatrick, A. Redmond, G. Halpin, K. O'Connell, G. Fulcher, J. Dowdall, K. Dawson, R. Yeadley, Dawson replaced by C. Bird (77). Harlequins: J. Walsh, J. Williams, T. Lacey, N. Walsh, J. Leonard, J. Blupp, A. Mullins, R. Jenkins, A. Snow, L. Gores, L. Cattermole, W. Dawson, Walsh replaced by H. Haines (70), Jenkins replaced by P. Poku (70). Referee: C. Potts (London Society).

## Accurate Jarvis displays touch of master

Cardiff ..... 46  
Neath ..... 17

By GERALD DAVIES

LEE JARVIS, the Cardiff stand-off half, is developing wonderfully in the position that he will no doubt take over next season, when Jonathan Davies is likely to have a less prominent role.

Varying his play with his kicking, passing and running, Jarvis, 21, is maturing rapidly. There are errors of timing still, but these will also be corrected when he plays as first choice in the position and performs more regularly.

More than these factors is his vast influence as a points-scorer. The understudy to Neil Jenkins at Pontypridd before he joined Cardiff, he has clearly inherited his accuracy from the goalkicking maestro.

In the first quarter of this match on Saturday, Neath exerted plenty of pressure but Jarvis, once he was presented with opportunities to kick at goal, took them with alacrity, whereas Case was failing with seemingly easier chances for the visitors. In a period of five minutes, Jarvis put his side into the lead with three penalties. Before half-time he had collected another two and converted two splendid tries that Cardiff had manufactured for Walker and Hill. It was an immaculate, effortless display.

Neath could only respond with a penalty from Case on the stroke of half-time. That Jarvis should kick one conversion and miss two after the

## Clubs protest to no avail

THE executive carried the day by 206 to 147 votes at the special meeting in Cardiff yesterday that agreed to cut the Welsh League premier division from 12 teams to eight from next season.

The bottom four teams will help to form a new 16-team first division that will include Cross Keys and Llandovery, who lead the present second division and whose hopes of promotion have now been ended.

Officials from Treorchy, Caerphilly and Llandovery made impassioned pleas for the plan to be scrapped, although all six sides directly affected by restructuring will receive financial compensation. The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) confirmed that the new premier division would kick off on August 16, with one club being relegated and one promoted.

The WRU also revealed that Wales's international against Romania will take place at the Recreation Ground, home of the Welsh Football Club, while work continues on the Millennium Stadium. No decision has been made on where Wales will play their five nations' fixtures next season.

interval did not take anything away from the impression that he is going to play a leading role in Cardiff's future. He will need to keep up his average over the next few weeks if his side is to finish in the top four of the Welsh League and qualify for the Heineken Cup.

Neath need some victories, too, but for a different reason. With the first division to be reduced to eight clubs, the champions of last season are only two points ahead of Dunt, who are in ninth position. On Saturday, their young players broke through midfield regularly, thanks to the finely timed passing of Hawkins and Funnell. They created some flowing moves, but were not able to capitalise. Cardiff only played confidently in fits and starts. It is the search for greater consistency that no doubt prompted the swift return of Alex Evans as coach on Wednesday. His first task will be to prepare the team for the Swale Cup semi-final against Llanelli on Sunday. Cardiff know that they need a more rounded performance than this to succeed.

SCORES: Cardiff: Tries: Walker, Hill (2), Ford, Ringer. Conversions: Jones (3). Penalty goals: Jarvis (5). Neath: Tries: Bridges, S. Williams. Conversions: Case (2). Penalty goals: Case (2). Cardiff: J. Thorne, S. Ford, L. Davies, S. Hill, N. Walker, L. Jarvis, R. Haines, A. Lewis, J. Humphreys, L. Mullins, J. Ringer, K. Stewart, D. Jones, M. Bennett, O. Hines, H. Howley replaced by P. Young (66), D. Jones replaced by L. Jones (53). NEATH: D. Case, C. Hogg, D. Hawkins, J. Funnell, R. Jones, D. Morris, C. Bridges, D. Jones, B. Williams, J. Davies, J. Boddy, S. Mann, N. Williams, P. Jones, S. Williams, D. Morris replaced by G. Davies (60m), J. Davies replaced by T. Gornard (57), Boddy replaced by S. Newman (53), R. Jones replaced by S. Gardner (53). Referee: R. Givens (Durham).



# Betting industry owes Aintree National debt

**Determined  
to put  
on a great  
display**

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of two men standing outdoors. The man on the left is smiling and wearing a dark jacket and a hat. The man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and a hat, and is holding a large fish. The fish has "RAHIBEN LAD" written on it.

the challenge equally daunting, and the sensation of winning will be just as acute. I have the feeling that this afternoon's race will be one of the most exciting.

We, as jockeys, will be doing our utmost to make it so.

But the pressures from both the City, which wants to see steady profits, and stiff competition from other gambling activities are forcing the bookmakers to look beyond racing. Further mishaps like Saturday's will only accelerate the decline in importance of betting on racing.

# FREE hair colour for every reader



CHANGING TIMES

**COLOR  
Touch**

## CHANGING TIMES

In general, spectators turn up regardless, happy to support their local hunt and enjoy a day in the countryside. That was not the case at the Royal Artillery meeting at Larkhill, the scene of a sparse attendance on Saturday.

Two walk-overs did at least prevent the winners having to gallop on very firm turf. The rest of the racing was contested by moderate horses and, while Fosbury was another welcome winner for title-chasing Tim Mitchell, his beating of three lowly rivals was like watching concrete drive.

[illegible]

3.15		EXCALIBUR HANICAP (€3,096: 1m) (16)		
391	108	1452	JERSEY 21 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	W 84th
392	109	1453	YOUR AMORAL 21 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	D 84th
393	110	1454	INSIGNIT 21 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	C 84th
394	111	1455	CHANCELLER 21 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	C 84th
395	112	1456	WENTON 47 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
396	113	1457	LEIGH CROFT 37 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
397	114	1458	JOHNIE THE JURY 47 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
398	115	1459	WINSTON 10 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
399	116	1460	REASURING TRIP 47 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
391	108	1452	BARBARA'S JEWEL 9 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
392	109	1453	FOURTHS PRIDE 21 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
393	110	1454	MAJOR MURDO 24 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
394	111	1455	DEATHHOLDINGS 24 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
395	112	1456	THE BURNING 24 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
396	113	1457	MAJOR CANNON 9 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
397	114	1458	LEIGH CROFT 37 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
398	115	1459	JOHNIE THE JURY 47 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th
399	116	1460	WINSTON 10 (CJF) 6d 1st 5-10-1	A 84th

# 4.45 PERCEVAL HANDICAP

(3-4-0, 22.914, 1 to 13) (3) 1

1	-411	TRUMPING 27	67	10	A Johnson 8-7	3	W Jones
2	100	W. S. WILSON 28	67	10	S. Wilson 8-7	4	G. Jones 10
3	102	BONNIE VILLE 12	68	11	B. Pilling 9-2	5	T. Spinks
4	104	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	68	11	G. M. Jones 9-2	6	R. Pilling
5	105	GREATSEA 2	68	11	A. Jones 9-2	7	R. Pilling
6	106	PROPELLANT 16B	C. Thomas 9-4	11	D. McCann	8	R. Pilling
7	107	EMBERS 9	C. Dwyer 9-4	11	R. McCann	9	R. Pilling
8	108	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	10	R. Pilling
9	109	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	11	R. Pilling
10	110	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	12	R. Pilling
11	111	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	13	R. Pilling
12	112	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	14	R. Pilling
13	113	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	15	R. Pilling
14	114	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	16	R. Pilling
15	115	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	17	R. Pilling
16	116	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	18	R. Pilling
17	117	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	19	R. Pilling
18	118	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	20	R. Pilling
19	119	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	21	R. Pilling
20	120	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	22	R. Pilling
21	121	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	23	R. Pilling
22	122	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	24	R. Pilling
23	123	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	25	R. Pilling
24	124	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	26	R. Pilling
25	125	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	27	R. Pilling
26	126	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	28	R. Pilling
27	127	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	29	R. Pilling
28	128	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	30	R. Pilling
29	129	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	31	R. Pilling
30	130	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	32	R. Pilling
31	131	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	33	R. Pilling
32	132	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	34	R. Pilling
33	133	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	35	R. Pilling
34	134	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	36	R. Pilling
35	135	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	37	R. Pilling
36	136	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	38	R. Pilling
37	137	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	39	R. Pilling
38	138	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	40	R. Pilling
39	139	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	41	R. Pilling
40	140	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	42	R. Pilling
41	141	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	43	R. Pilling
42	142	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	44	R. Pilling
43	143	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	45	R. Pilling
44	144	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	46	R. Pilling
45	145	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	47	R. Pilling
46	146	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	48	R. Pilling
47	147	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	49	R. Pilling
48	148	ROCKINGHILL TRAP 14	67	10	A. Jones 9-2	50	







ROWING: HOW SCALED-DOWN BOATS ARE GIVING YOUNGSTERS A HEAD START IN SCULLING

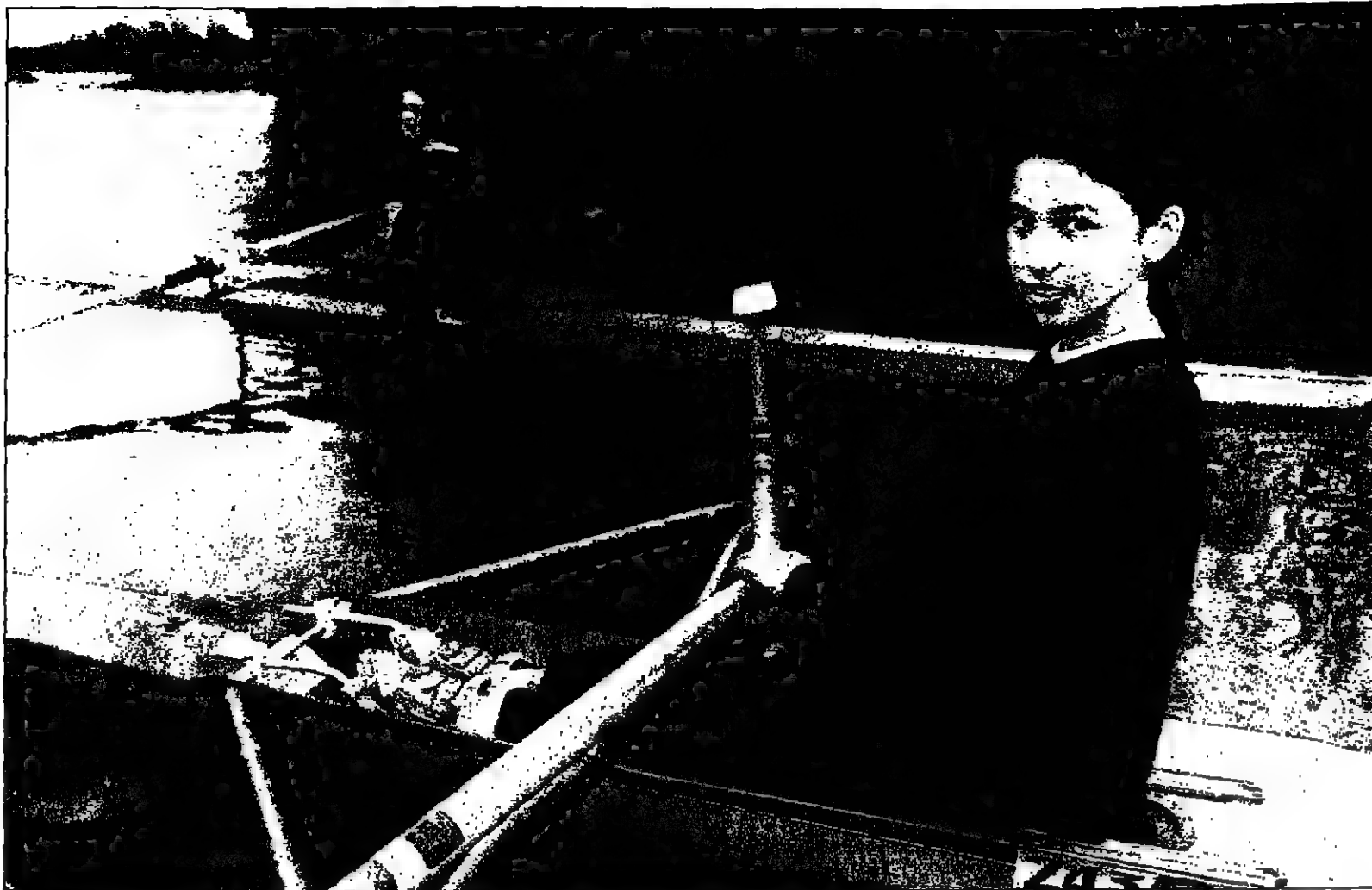
# Headington girls take to the water

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANY sports are better taught to youngsters by using small-sized equipment or pitches. Youngsters do not have the physique or ability to learn correct skills on the facilities and implements of adults.

It has long been the accepted practice to coach football on small-sided pitches. Athletics has lighter weights for the throwing events. Cricket has smaller bats, balls, stumps and pitches, while tennis has a popular version of the game — short tennis.

Rowing, too, is adapting. Headington School, Oxford, is extremely unusual in having purpose-built boats, which are



Andrea Lomas, 13, right, and Claire Painter, 14, of Headington School, Oxford, in purpose-built sculls. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

## SPORT

shorter, narrower and lighter, for their pupils to learn sculling. Girls as young as 11 years old are acquiring the necessary skills in scaled-down versions of full-sized boats.

Cathy Partridge, Headington's director of coaching, said: "Traditionally, youngsters started to learn in what looked like bath tubs. They were sculling with their arms round their ears and then almost had to relearn the skills when they got into racing boats."

The Amateur Rowing Association prohibits actual rowing until girls are 16 years old, because otherwise it might hamper their long-term physical development. However, sculling is encouraged. So the Headington girls acquire the necessary technique, suitable for children as light as 35kg. The boats are smaller, with the rigging narrower.

Partridge said: "Girls of that

size do not have the height or arm-span to use adult boats or oars. By using smaller equipment, you get them to row the correct length of stroke."

The girls are initially taught in the school's swimming pool to learn the basic balance and water skills. They then transfer to Hinkley Lake, outside Oxford.

Partridge said: "Safety is at a premium. Before anyone starts, they have to be able to swim 100 metres. While on the lake they are always within 45 seconds of an adult."

Only after this initial training are they allowed on the river. They can then attend any of the seven weekly ses-

sions under the supervision of the four-strong coaching team. Andrea Lomas, 13, and Claire Painter, 14, have been sculling for two years. Andrea particularly likes being in quads. "There are so many people. It is like a team," she said.

Claire has become an enthusiastic about the activity that she has her own rowing machine at home. "I would like to do really well in the sport," she said. "My mum is keen for me to do well academically, but I believe I can do both."

Headington began the sport in 1992, largely because the girls pointed out that there was a river nearby that they were not using. Some of the

attracted 1,600 competitors from New Zealand, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. KCS finished first in the under-15 coxed quad, under-16 coxed quad, under-19 coxed quad and the under-19 coxed four, and was also second in two other events.

bers for the British junior squad. One is Tamsin Roberts, 16, who began sculling at the school. "I left that other sports weren't really me. The success I enjoyed in sculling motivated me," she said.

She admits that she does not find training "the nicest thing". Tamsin still exercises 14 hours a week, either on the river or using weights and ergometers.

"However you have to do it to get the results," she said. "Some other girls think we must be mad to row when there is only the odd victory now and then. However, it means so much more to you when you win events."

## Anglers cannot afford climate of indifference

Brian Clarke on the lethal downward spiral caused by prolonged drought

EIGHT years of drought and their likely effect on water supplies have been much in the news. Few anglers understand the implications for their sport. The start of a new trout season, after the two driest years since records began, seems a good time to make them plain. Profound changes, for game anglers especially, are under way.

Rainfall figures are a matter of record. Many upland rivers are squeezing between the stones. More insidiously, the underground aquifers — the great cavernous sponges that give rise to the springs that feed rivers and lakes in much of the South and East — are at an historical low just when they should be at their fullest.

Such rain as falls this year is unlikely to help, even in the short term. It is winter rain that counts. Summer rain is mostly taken up by the plants and evaporated by the sun. At the same time, as usual in summer, demand for water will soar. Reservoirs look set to shrink within their cracked-tile margins. Abstraction will suck more from the already perched ground.

A lethal downward spiral, for this year at least, looks inevitable. All water life is going to feel the effect. Anglers, especially those who fish for cold-water species such as trout, will see a deadly scramble for life from close up.

The progression will be most evident on rivers. Falling water levels will mean fewer places where fish can live. Competition for the best places — and then for any places at all — will increase. Fish unable to find lies that can provide them with sufficient food and security will weaken and die.

As water levels continue to fall, the remaining fish will retreat into the deeper pools, where they will become vulnerable to poachers and predators. In particular, fish losses to cormorants on shrinking waters could be locally catastrophic. Through it all, farming will go on and, as a result, more chemicals will be sprayed onto the land. Little by little they will leach into the water, less diluted. The insects that many fish eat, having already been thinned by their own shrinking habitat, will take a second hit from poisons. The fish will now not only have less space, but less food.

Summer, if it is a typical summer, will move on. As the weather warms, so the water will warm — and as the water warms, so the levels of oxygen dissolved in it will drop. Now, fish being jammed together in exposed places with an inadequate food supply will begin to have breathing problems.

Without substantial heavy rain and unseasonably dull, cold weather, the spiral will quicken. Hot, sunny weather and less dilution for fertilizers will see the power of modern chemicals at work, not only on crops but also on plant life in the water, and significantly on algae.

Dense growths of blanket

weed, a suffocating algae that can, in such conditions, fill a river from bed to surface and bank to bank, will result. When night falls, algae will stop pouring out the oxygen that photosynthesis has produced and carbon dioxide levels in the water will rise. The breathing problems of fish such as trout will intensify and, in extreme cases, fish will die.

As if this appalling scenario was not enough, other, subtle changes already begun on many rivers will spread. Reduced water velocities will mean more silt on the stream bed. More silt and reduced flows will lead to changes in plant life. Changes in plant life, increased silt and reduced oxygen levels will lead to changes in insect populations and to steep declines in the species that have traditionally formed the basis of the fly-fisher's art.

If this summer follows the pattern of those of late, all of these changes will be seen this season. If the drought and warm summers continue, as experts predict, anglers will find themselves looking not only at the occasional dry year, but also at a very different kind of sport. Warm-water fish, such as carp, will thrive. Trout fishing will, quite literally, dry up.

Through it all, angling's representative bodies have vital roles to play. The

Anglers' Conservation Association — the sport's legal arm — is going to be busier than ever. The Salmon and Trout Association, as the most active political lobby, and the National Federation of

Anglers, which has the most members, will need to make their new-found single voice piercingly heard. Special-interest groups, among them the recently formed Wild Trout Society, will need to attack and harry.

Above all, the role of the Environment Agency (EA), which this month marks its first anniversary, is going to be critical. The EA combines the responsibilities of the former National Rivers Authority (NRA) with pollution and waste regulation. It is now responsible for the quality of air, land and water together.

The NRA, which focused solely on water, managed for all its imperfections to get to grips with many of the issues that are vital to anglers. It brought science and, on occasion, real clout to bear. Since it was first mooted, anglers have feared that the EA's wider and often competing responsibilities will cause it to lose the focus on fisheries that the NRA achieved.

The EA itself must ensure that this does not happen. Anglers, who fund the EA's fisheries function, have a right to expect it not to happen. In the world we are facing, stocks everywhere are going to need all the help they can get. Everyone concerned with fisheries is going to have to be on their toes. The changing climate will prove challenge enough.

□ Brian Clarke's angling column appears on the first Monday of each month.

## BASKETBALL

### Leicester quick to repay Donewald

By NICHOLAS HARLING

IF EVER there was vindication for foresight, it came with the qualification of Leicester Riders for the Budweiser League play-offs. Just 48 hours after he had signed a two-year extension to his contract as coach, Bob Donewald steered them into eighth place and two meetings next weekend with Leopards, the champions.

"I made up my mind some time ago that I wanted Bob to stay," Kevin Routledge, the Leicester chairman, said. "I like the way the guys play for him and I like the way he works."

Under Donewald, 27, easily the league's youngest coach, Leicester had competed for the best part of the season with Derby Storm for the last place in the play-offs. When Derby beat the Riders a fortnight ago, it looked as though their East Midlands rivals would go through but, with the Storm defeated 91-80 at home by Sheffield Sharks on Saturday, Leicester were able to celebrate their own 96-94 victory over Birmingham Bulls.

"We're delighted and excited to be there," Donewald said. "We've not even come close to beating the Leopards this season so we know it's going to be tough, but at least we've fulfilled our ambitions by getting this far."

Leon McGee, with 31 points,

was Leicester's leading scorer, but the most courageous act came from Justin Phoenix, who collected 16 points — and the last decisive rebound — only two hours after having a plaster cast removed from his right hand. He had even gone to the consultants in his kit, ready to play. "Considering that he was in pain he played extremely well," Donewald said.

The Riders had come from 70-57 down and were still 92-89 adrift going into the last two minutes when McGee, Phoenix and Gene Waldron came up with the all-important baskets to leave both the game's outstanding marksmen, Nigel Lloyd, who scored 32 points, and Tony Dorsey, who scored 28, among the vanquished.

Jimmy Ratliff experienced the same fate for the Storm, whose coach, Jeff Jones, might not now enjoy the kind of job security afforded Donewald. Mike Horton, the Derby chairman, is known to be extremely ambitious.

With the help of 30 points from the prolific James Hamilton, Worthing Bears compensated for their failure to reach the play-offs for the first time in seven years by beating Chester Jets — who have qualified for the first time — 83-76.

## SNOOKER: WELSHMAN TRIUMPHS AS WORLD CHAMPION BLAMES BURN-OUT

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY fell victim to his own consistency and the refusal of Mark Williams to be intimidated by reputation when he suffered a surprise defeat in the final of the British Open at Plymouth on Saturday.

Hendry's 9-2 reversal was his heaviest in a final, eclipsing 10-4 defeats by Jimmy White at the 1991 Mercantile Classic and Steve Davis at the 1993 European Open. It also ended a sequence of 11 successful final appearances for the Scot stretching back to the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters of 1995.

While Hendry laid the

blame squarely at the door of competitive fatigue, there was no hint of sour grapes. Hendry magnanimously described Williams as "a phenomenal talent", but did not allow the occasion to pass without criticising what he regards as an unreasonable tournament calendar.

Hendry, winner of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, Regal Welsh Open, International Open and Irish Masters during the first three months of the year, had also figured in two quarter-finals and a semi-final before travelling to Plymouth.

"There was nothing left in the tank," Hendry said. "I've played an awful lot of snooker

week in, week out lately and I have simply run out of steam. There are too many events and that's why I was pleased to hear that two ranking tournaments are being dropped from the schedule next season.

"After a result like this I am entitled to feel absolutely gutted, but I don't. It just wasn't me out there. I'm glad I'll be able to take a few days rest to recharge the batteries before the world championship, because they are badly needed at the moment."

While the conclusion that Hendry's burn-out influenced the outcome was inescapable, it would also be unfair to suggest that Williams's capture of a third title in 15

months, after triumphs at the Welsh Open and Grand Prix last year, was merely due to his opponent's ineffectiveness.

True, Hendry capitulated only 30 minutes into the evening's play as Williams converted a 5-2 first session lead into victory. However, by then, the damage had been done as the Welshman compiled breaks of 56, 50, 68, 66, and 59 to assume control.

"To beat the greatest player in history by such a huge margin is unreal. I think it will take a long time for this to sink in," Williams, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said.

RESULTS: M Williams (Welsh) 5-2 S Hendry (Scot) 9-2. Frame scores: (Williams first) 7-45, 6-49, 61-0, 61-31, 68-22, 75-48, 75-8, 75-44, 61-41, 61-21.

### Williams keeps Hendry out of frame

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## SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH OWNER GAMBLES ON INTRODUCING NEW TEAM

By TONY HOARE

SPEEDWAY sails into uncharted waters this weekend when Skegness Stadium becomes the second new venue in two years to open its doors to the sport.

After a 12-year period without the launch of a new club, 1996 saw the arrival of Wight Wizards on the Isle of Wight and the Skegness promotion has taken its cue from the island club.

Ryde was the financial success story of last year, attracting large crowds by speedway standards (1,500-2,000), and Peter Oakes, the Skegness promoter, admits that the Wizards' achievement

provided the main incentive to launch the new club on the Yorkshire coast.

"It was the one major factor in deciding to do it," Oakes said. "People had said you could never be successful with speedway, but Ryde never ran a meeting in the holiday season, yet were incredibly successful."

Oakes is a former national newspaper journalist who took control of Peterborough when they were on the brink of extinction in 1992 and turned them into one of the country's most successful teams. He has entered the Skegness, Braves into the Premier League to act as a sister track to Peterborough, of the Elite

League, but confesses he is nervous about the new venture.

"This is the sort of gamble that gives you sleepless nights," Oakes said. "There has been a very heavy investment to get Skegness up and running. You wake up with that recurring nightmare that there will not be a single person in the stadium." In contrast to the Amateur League set-up at Ryde, Oakes has to pay wages to his riders.

"We are not expecting to win championships and cups this year," he said. "Skegness has never had speedway before and we hope people will come along and support us."

## GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

### TODAY

#### FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
FA Cup Fifth Round  
Leeds v Blackburn (8.0)  
Valhalla Conference  
Hednesford v Halesowen (7.45)  
Bell's Scottish League  
First Division  
Falkirk v Stirling

#### OR MATHS LEAGUE: Premier division

Chesham v Havering  
KCS LEAGUE: First division: Molesey v Leyton Fernant. Third division: Tiling v Canterbury.

#### UNION LEAGUE: First division

Avon v Gloucester  
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers v Crystal Palace (at Yale Town FC). Chesham v Charlton (at Kingstonians, 7.0). Luton v Bourneville (2.0). Queens Park Rangers v Bristol City (at Harrow Borough, 7.0). Watford v Oxford United (at Chesham).

#### PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier division

Liverpool v Birmingham (7.0). First division: Preston v Huddersfield (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Burnley (7.0). Carlisle v Hull (7.0).

#### SOUTH EAST COUNTRIES: Second division

Barnet v Wimbledon (11.0)  
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ilford v Stansted

### OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Milton Keynes)  
RACQUET: Ardena (5.0). Southwell (AW, 2.15). Kato (2.0).

SPEEDWAY: NPI Premiership: Wolverhampton v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League Knockout Cup: Luton v Long Eaton (7.30). Reading v Arena Essex (7.30).

### TOMORROW

#### FOOTBALL

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Gloucester v Leicester (7.45)

#### RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION: Hull Kingston Rovers v Huddersfield (7.30)

#### OTHER SPORT

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#### RACING

Nottingham (2.0). Wolverhampton (AW, 2.15)

### WEDNESDAY

#### RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Huddersfield v Saracens (7.30)

#### RUGBY LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION: Leigh v Bramley (7.30)

#### OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Milton Keynes)

### THURSDAY

#### FOOTBALL

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Milton Keynes)  
RACQUET: World Championship (at Milton Keynes). World Championship (at Milton Keynes). World Championship (at Milton Keynes)

#### RACING

Nottingham (2.0). Wolverhampton (AW, 2.15)

### FRIDAY

#### FOOTBALL

BOWLS: Men's British championships (at Milton Keynes)  
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SECOND DIVISION: Leigh v Bramley (7.30)

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### TOMORROW








## Cook's tour with thrills but no frills

SE



**DON'T** take a suitcase or too many clothes. The lockers are very small.  
**DON'T** forget to take a torch. It's very dark below deck at night.  
**DON'T** take your own rations. You will get three good meals a day.  
**DON'T** take tobacco or alcohol. They are strictly banned on ship.  
**DON'T** worry. If you are fit, you'll have a great time. Good luck.

During safety drill, Geoff, the first mate, showed us how to put on lifejackets in case we had to abandon ship. "Make sure the straps are tight or the jacket will come off when you hit the water," he said. "When you go over the side, hold your



**SHEEHAN** of

The training ship sailed into sight with her fire hoses at the ready to drench us. As she came alongside we were pelted with rotten fruit by her crew. We fired our cannon, showering them with confetti and launched a salvo of water balloons.

At about 4am on my last day on board ship, as *Endeavour* approached Madeira, I was woken and called up on deck. "Look over there," pointed Caroline. Lighting up the inky-black sky like a football-sized Catherine wheel was the comet Hale-Bopp. On August 30, 1769, Cook noted in his diary that they had seen a comet just a month before they sighted New Zealand. Perhaps it was our guiding light, too.

● The *Endeavour* is on exhibition at Greenwich Pier until April 13 from 10am to 7pm. Admission prices are £5 adults, children £2.50. Family tickets, £12.50. Details: 0181 293 5522. She will then be at Great Yarmouth (April 19-28), Boston (May 2-5), Whitby (May 10-18), Leith, Edinburgh (May 24-June 1), Inverness (June 7-15), Greenock (June 28-July 6), Liverpool (July 11-20), Fishguard (July 26-August 3), Falmouth (August 9-17), Plymouth (August 23-31), Weymouth (September 6-9), Brighton (September 13-21), St Helier, Jersey (September 27-October 5). After a visit to St Malo (October 7-12), *Endeavour* returns to Plymouth on October 17 to prepare for her voyage to the United States.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL GROSVENOR  
MYER,  
34 West End,  
Haddenham,  
Cambridge.

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The overall health of the game has shown signs of

It was no coincidence either that Sebastian Coe's father/coach was an engineer who understood principles of mechanical movement, but Radcliffe can take heart from Valeri Borzov whose running was taken apart and rebuilt, from the ankles up, to take him to double Olympic gold.

Yours etc.,  
R. E. KEMP,  
69 Bradgate Road,  
Nottingham.

Sir, So, Gerald Davies believes club rugby in Wales is in good health (report, March 31). It seems that he suffers from the unlikely Welsh phenomenon of eternal optimism.

Welsh club rugby is, by common consent of those who watch it, in a sorry state throughout its playing structure, in a dire moribund condition. Clubs in debt, the Welsh Rugby Union in malaise, poor coaching, overpaid and under talented players, all encompassed by a national side playing to a brave but ultimately flawed commitment to a brand of rugby that is leaving the nation in the European second division of the sport.

The overall health of the game has shown signs of

hands on deck." As I went into journalism school, I made and grabbed my camera, an officer barked: "Ron! Lend a hand." Not knowing whether it was an exercise or the real thing, I did not argue. As we pulled on the lines to change the sails and stall the ship, a rescue powerboat with two crewmen in wet suits was lowered into the choppy sea.

Later, Tina Jackson from Bognor Regis, Sussex, cradled the rescued Scottie in her arms. "It's a buoy!" she said, smiling. The rescue marker, I learnt, had been named after a crew member, a strong swimmer, who had fallen overboard and almost died.

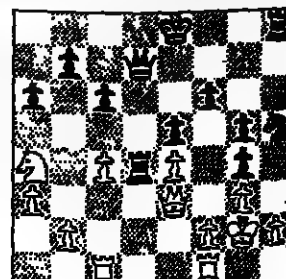
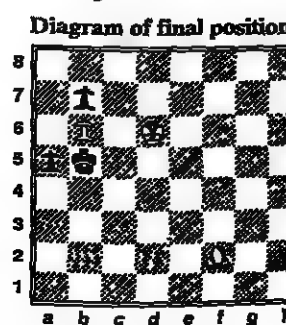
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# LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO

Increase funding for schools ■ Get people back to work ■ Tax pollution ■ Revive sense of community

## EDUCATION

Our first priority is to give children the best start by providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it.

Key priorities

- Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts.
- Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
- Tackle the backlog of repair and maintenance to buildings with £300m additional investment over 5 years.
- Boost chances for all adults to improve their skills and get better qualifications.

Making the best start

Early years education is the essential building block for higher standards and achievement later on. Every £1 spent on standards in later years adds up to £7 of value to the nation's economy. We will:

- Give children the best start by providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it. This will be the best start on our £12 billion annual programme of extra investment in education.
- Promote high standards in early years education. We will set minimum standards for care, curriculum and premises. We will ensure that those in early years education are supervised by qualified staff.
- Provide choice in early years education. We will wrap the bureaucratic voucher scheme.

We will ensure a variety of provision from a wide range of public, private and voluntary providers.

- Raising standards in schools. We will raise standards in schools, especially in literacy and numeracy, which are still far too low.
- Improve teaching standards. We will set up a General Teaching Council, charged with improving teaching standards and making teaching a profession to be proud of. We will provide more opportunities for professional development and reward excellence in teaching. We will help poor teachers improve, but if they cannot, we will ensure they do not continue to teach.

- Encourage schools to succeed. We will strengthen the inspection system so that it helps schools and we will extend inspection to monitoring Local Education Authorities (LEAs).
- Strengthen discipline in schools. We will support teachers in maintaining discipline and provide them with the means to do so - for example, by providing better access to special referral units. We will require every school to develop a policy to tackle bullying and truancy. We will launch a national 'Truancy Watch' scheme. We will oblige LEAs to fulfil their responsibilities to educate pupils excluded or suspended from school.

- Measure achievement in pupils and schools. We will give every pupil a Personal Record of Achievement which will enable them to build up a set of nationally accredited qualifications and record their other achievements. We will require schools to publish meaningful information on their standards, achievements and plans for the future.

- Improve the National Curriculum. We will replace the National Curriculum with a more focused and flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will ensure that religious education, spiritual education and an understanding of the major traditions of belief in this country.

- Boost literacy. We will establish special literacy programmes involving parents with teachers in a drive to ensure that 90 per cent of all pupils reach their expected reading age by 2005.

Investing in schools

Extra investment for well-equipped classrooms and better-trained teachers is essential if standards are to improve. We will:

- Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts. A typical primary school of 250 pupils will get an extra £16,000. A typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will get an extra £100,000.
- Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
- Tackle the backlog of repairs. We will invest an additional £300 million over 5 years in repairing crumbling and unsafe buildings.
- Support children with special needs. We will fully fund the implementation of the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs.

A new partnership for schools

Involving parents in the education of their children and ensuring schools are supported by local communities are both essential to achieving higher standards and a better use of resources. We will:

- Increase the role of parents in education. We will extend existing school-parent links, develop home-school partnership arrangements and support parents with information and resources to help them help their child. We will require the schools inspection service to report on home-school partnerships as part of school inspections. We will promote school councils and guarantee automatic representation on governing bodies to staff and, where appropriate, students.
- Open up schools to the whole community. We will encourage schools to develop courses for parents, build links with local leisure organisations to open up school sports facilities to the community and work with local businesses to provide improved computer education.
- Give all schools more independence and allow them to develop their own styles and strengths. We will devolve as many powers as possible to schools and give them more control over their budgets. We will make 'light touch' LEAs responsible for those functions that cannot be undertaken by individual schools on their own, such as coordination, planning and monitoring standards. We will bring grant-maintained schools and City Technology Colleges into this new framework and scrap the Funding Agency for Schools. Liberal Democrats are opposed to selection, but believe that decisions on this should be made by local communities through their local Councils and not by politicians in Westminster.
- Recognise the valuable role of church schools in the maintained sector. We will initiate a dialogue with all the major faiths about the role they wish to play in education in the future. Where any of the faiths wish to establish publicly funded voluntary schools we will enable them to do so, provided that they enjoy substantial community support, offer acceptable programmes of study, provide equality of opportunity and are able to deliver the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement.
- Forge a new partnership with the independent sector. We will encourage independent schools to work with state

## How you can make the difference

This will be the last election of this century. And one of its most important. We have ducked the challenges that confront our country for too long. It is time to face them. The choice you make will shape Britain's future for the next 50 years. There are no quick fixes, no instant solutions. Eighteen years of Conservative government have left our society divided, our public services run down, our sense of community fractured and our economy underperforming. There is much to be done.

Yet a terrible fatalism seems to grip politicians. Though the challenges are immense, the solutions we are offered are all too often puny. We are told we can't ask people to pay more for a better education. Or change the way we live to protect our environment. Or share more to give better opportunities to those who have less. Or modernise our politics to give people more say. We are in politics not just to manage things

better, but to make things happen. To build a more prosperous, fair and open society. We believe in the market economy as the best way to deliver prosperity and distribute economic benefits. But we recognise that market mechanisms on their own are not enough; that the private sector alone cannot ensure that there are good services for everyone, or promote employment opportunities, or tackle economic inequality, or protect the environment for future generations. We believe in a society in which every citizen shares rights and responsibilities. But, we recognise that a strong country is built from the bottom, not the top; that conformity quickly becomes the enemy of diversity.

Above all, Liberal Democracy is about liberty. That does not just mean freedom from oppressive government. It means providing all citizens with the opportunity to build worthwhile lives for themselves and their families

and helping them to recognise their responsibilities to the wider community. Liberal Democrats believe the role of democratic government is to protect and strengthen liberty, to redress the balance between the powerful and the weak, between rich and poor and between immediate gains and long-term environmental costs. That is the Liberal Democrat vision: of active government which invests in people, promotes their long-term prosperity and welfare, safeguards their security, and is answerable to them for its actions.

Much of what we propose here requires no money - only political will. But where extra investment is required we say where it will come from. The purpose of this manifesto is to widen opportunities for all. And its aim is to build a nation of self-reliant individuals, living in strong communities, backed by an enabling government. Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown



Ashdown: no quick fixes

schools. We will phase out the Assisted Places Scheme and use the money saved to enable LEAs, if they wish, to enter into local partnership schemes. These could include assisting the funding of pupils at independent schools. Pupils currently covered by the Assisted Places Scheme would, however, be protected until they finish their studies. We will require independent schools to offer the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will extend charitable status to all schools without affecting total Council funding and maintain the VAT exemption on school fees.

Extending life-long learning

In the information age, education must be a life-long activity from which people can benefit anywhere and at any time, rather than being something that only happens in school. We will:

- Widen access to further education. We will give every person an individual Learning Account as the basis for life-long post-school education with contributions made by the state, individuals and employers. Our aim is that the state contribution will be at least equivalent to the cost of fees on approved courses. We will replace the Student Loans Scheme with a fair repayment scheme linked to salaries in later life.
- Oppose top-up fees for tuition. Our aim is to ensure that students on approved courses (including part-time courses) up to first degree level are treated equally.
- Promote flexible learning. We will create a higher standard credit-based system for all post-secondary education at A-level and degree courses. We will work with the private sector to link all schools to the Information Super Highway and ensure that they have the equipment and skills to take advantage of this.

- Promote training in the workplace. We will ensure that students on approved courses (including part-time courses) up to first degree level are treated equally.
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- Invest in a highly skilled workforce. Our investment of an additional £2 billion a year in education and training will improve skills and increase the nation's knowledge base.
- Promote environmental sustainability. We will begin a long-term shift in taxation, reducing taxes on jobs, wealth and goods and shifting them to pollution and resource depletion. We will use new national indicators of progress which include measures of quality of life and environmental sustainability.
- Encourage people to save. Our aim is to extend the advantages of TESSAs and PEPs to a wider range of savers by developing a new save-as-you-earn scheme. We will encourage personal and portable pension plans.

- Investing in enterprise
- Small business, enterprise and self-employment are the engine of a modern dynamic economy and a vital source of new jobs and growth. We will:

- Support small and medium-sized businesses. We will encourage the banks to develop new sources of private finance, including grants, equity and venture capital guarantees schemes. We will seek to expand the sources of "seed-core" capital. We will legislate for a statutory right to interest on late debt payments. We will require the banks to develop new codes of banking practice for small businesses. We will cut red tape, for example by stopping European institutions interfering where they shouldn't and by preventing Whitehall departments "gold-plating" European regulations with extra rules. We will, in the long term, abolish the Uniform Business Rate and bring in a new, fairer local rating system. We will ensure that government purchasing gives special emphasis and easier access to small and medium-sized firms.

- Boost regional and local economies. We will set up regionally-based Development Agencies to build new partnerships between small businesses, local Councils, Business Links, TECs and local Chambers of Commerce. We will encourage local business to come together to provide "one-stop shops". We will enable councils to raise capital for local infrastructure investment, where they work in partnership with the private sector. We will encourage industrial development in the earliest stages.

- Invest in research and innovation. We will expand support for science and research by shifting government funds away from military research and development and into civil science and research, and improve specialist research facilities for industry. We will encourage regional technology transfer centres to bring together the resources of industry, universities and government laboratories.

- Promote tourism. We will bring together the marketing and infrastructure work of government, local Councils and tourist boards. We will ensure that local communities are involved in the planning of tourist developments from the earliest stages.

- Build new partnerships at work. We will give employees new rights to consultation and participation in decisions and give companies and their employees access to advice on the firm's partnership which best suits them. We will promote profit-sharing, mutual structures and employee share-ownership schemes. We will extend the benefits of the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty to all UK employees, while resisting the adoption of new rules that unnecessarily harm job opportunities.

- Encourage a culture of long-term business investment. We will require companies to publish information on their long-term investment achievements, including environmental performance, research and development, and training. We will introduce greater shareholder control over directors' pay and appointments.

- Begin to shift taxation from jobs, wealth and goods to pollution and the depletion of natural resources.
- Investing in Britain's future

Long-term investment and economic stability are crucial to future economic success. We will:

- Secure stable prices and low interest rates. We will turn the Bank of England into a more independent body free from political interference. We will charge the Bank with keeping inflation low and make it accountable to Parliament for achieving this goal. Lower inflation and greater exchange rate stability can be better secured by working with Britain's European partners. The best framework for this is a single European currency and it is in Britain's interests to take part in this.

- Ensure responsible economic management. We will keep to the "golden rule" of public finance: over the economic cycle, total borrowing should not exceed total investment. We will make the Government accountable to Parliament for keeping to this rule, and subject it to independent monitoring. We will cut wasteful spending and ensure new spending delivers value for money.

- Build up Britain's capital assets. We will distinguish between capital and current spending in the national accounts system. We will promote effective public/private investment partnerships at both national and local levels, with Councils borrowing carefully controlled.

- Put Britain's people back to work. We will enable long-term unemployed people to turn their unemployment benefits into "working benefits" paid to an employer to recruit and train them. We will break open the poverty traps that stop unemployed people from working. Our plans for boosting investment in infrastructure, promoting small businesses and encouraging energy conservation will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

- Strengthen the law on competition. We will tighten the rules on monopolies and adopt a pro-competition stance on takeovers and mergers. We will combine the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading into a single powerful body, independent of government and charged with promoting competition.

- Give consumers more power. We will promote the establishment of industry-wide ombudsmen schemes to improve complaints procedures and consumer redress. We will strengthen consumer guarantees, especially for environmental purposes, and encourage products that are easier to repair, reuse and recycle. We will insist on clear labelling for food products which include genetically modified ingredients.

- Reform the privatised utilities. We will combine the existing regulators into a single Office of Utility Regulation, reporting to a Cabinet Minister responsible for consumer affairs. This new office will contain a regulatory board for each industry and will be charged with protecting the consumer and ensuring that excess profits are used to reduce prices and increase investment in improved services. Starting with the water industry, we will encourage utilities to involve their consumers in ownership and control of their company, through natural structures.

- Reinforce consumer and investor protection. We will introduce independent regulation of financial services and improve processes for redress (eg for mis-selling). We will protect pension and life assurance savings from fraud. We will work to maintain the City of London's pre-eminence as a financial centre and promote effective international banking standards.

- Our priorities
- Cut taxes on things we want to encourage, like jobs, by taxing pollution instead. This will mean more tax, it will mean taxing differently.
- Build environmental objectives into every government decision.
- Set tough targets to cut energy waste, reduce traffic congestion and control pollution.

- A greener economy
- Environmental protection must be built into every economic decision and every area of government policy. We will:

- Set tough targets for the reduction of traffic pollution and waste. This will help reduce global warming, air pollution and prevent waste. Our targets include cutting carbon dioxide emissions (the main cause of climate change) by 30 per cent from the 1990 level over the next 15 years. □ Cut VAT and taxes on jobs, and make up the difference by taxing pollution instead. This will create more jobs and a better standard of living.

- Adopt a Green Action Programme. We will set targets for sustainability and biodiversity, to be met by central and local government. We will measure these by using new indicators of quality of life, progress and wealth. The Prime Minister will report to Parliament each year on the country's success in meeting these environmental targets.

- Protect the local environment. We will pass stronger laws to conserve the countryside. We will cut road congestion and help local Councils make Britain's towns and cities healthier and more attractive to live in.

- Improve the way environment policy is made. Environment policy is currently buried, with housing and local government, in a huge single Government Department. We will put environment and energy policy within a separate, new department and ensure that all government departments and agencies pursue environment-friendly policies. We will give the Environment Agency stronger powers to enforce compliance with environmental laws.

- Transporting people, tackling pollution
- Travel delays and road congestion cost billions of pounds, and pollution damages the health of millions of people. We will:

- Invest in public transport by building new partnerships with the private sector. We will enable Councils to introduce road pricing in the most congested urban areas and use the money to support clean and rapid public transport, and to improve cycle and pedestrian access. We will retain London Underground in public ownership and give it the right to seek private finance for new investment without an assured government guarantee.

- Tackle the freight and double the number of passengers carried on Britain's railways by the year 2010. We will strengthen the powers of the rail regulator. We will require Railtrack to meet targets for greater investment and increased passenger and freight traffic. We will withhold public subsidies from Railtrack if the targets are not met and, in the case of persistent failure, use the funds to reconfigure a controlling interest in Railtrack. We will provide for legislation enabling this.

- Encourage people to drive more fuel-efficient cars by cutting the annual car tax from £45 to £10 for cars up to 1000cc, over the period of the next Parliament, funded by gradually raising the duty on fuel by approximately 4p per litre. Under our proposals, a person with a typical family car could drive up to 25,000 miles per year and still be better off - even in rural areas, where the average motorist only drives 11,700 miles a year. We will reform tax relief on company cars to encourage smaller cars and give people new incentives to use public transport for getting to work.

- Reduce the need to travel. We will reform the planning system so that people have easier access to shops, offices and facilities, and promote the use of information technology to decentralise work.
- Warmer homes, saving energy

Official government figures show that half the energy used in Britain is wasted. This includes heating bills, warming pollution and speeds up global warming. We will:

- Cut fuel bills and make homes warmer. We will launch a National Homes Insulation programme to cut fuel poverty starting with the 2 million lowest income households. Our proposals will be funded by the Energy Saving Trust and the energy supply companies. This will save these households an average £85 per year and reduce global warming emissions by 1.5 million tonnes. We will cut VAT on energy conservation materials to 5 per cent - the same as for energy supplies.

- Promote renewable sources of energy and combined heat and power schemes. We will shift funds from nuclear research into decommissioning and nuclear waste management, and support research for renewable energy sources. We will not provide any government subsidies for nuclear generation. We support on-site dry storage of nuclear waste, pending the long-term development of safe alternatives. Nuclear stations will not be replaced at the end of their design life.

- Protecting Britain's heritage
- Britain's natural environment and heritage are being gradually destroyed. We will:

- Clean up Britain's rivers and beaches

- Protect wild animals. We believe that the issues of hunting with hounds and coursing should be decided by free voters in the House of Commons. We will ban snare and leg hold traps. We will press for stronger international laws to protect endangered species. We will ban the importation of products derived from threatened wild animals.

- Promote animal welfare. We will set up a compulsory national dog registration scheme. We will halt the trade in endangered species as pets. We will promote and extend training and qualification for those who work with livestock. We will insist on the enforcement of maximum time limits for and transporting live animals in the EU, a stricter timetable for burning veal crates and improved rearing conditions for pig and chicken welfare in the EU. We will create an Animal Protection Commission to enforce animal welfare laws and improve animal welfare standards. We will ban animal testing for cosmetics, weapons and tobacco products. We will ensure the latest and best use of animals in scientific experiments and seek the development of alternatives.

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# Restore trust in government ■ Ensure dignity in retirement ■ Recruit more frontline NHS staff

**Urban communities**  
Britain's towns and cities offer civic pride, accessible facilities and, potentially, a high quality of life. However, many suffer from urban deprivation, high crime rates, a run-down environment and loss of population. Urban areas should offer excitement, security and a strong sense of community. We will:

- Boost local economic development and job opportunities. We will support local development corporations. We will build new partnerships between local government and the private and voluntary sectors, to regenerate local economies and promote community enterprise. We will link local training to local jobs. We will encourage the establishment of community banks and credit unions.
- Tackle urban crime. We will expand community policing, ensure that all new planning takes account of the need to deter crime and focus on crime prevention.
- Encourage public transport. We will enable Councils to coordinate bus and train services and give them powers to introduce urban road pricing schemes. Using the revenue raised to invest in better public transport.
- Reform and strengthen elected local government. We will give local Councils greater control over their own affairs. We will create a strategic authority for London. We will encourage the use of "planning for real" strategies, in which local people can make a direct input into major planning projects in their community.

**Art and media**  
Flourishing arts and a diverse culture are essential for a lively and open society. They can be engines of innovation that bring life to the economy. At the same time, the world is experiencing an information revolution as important and far-reaching as the Industrial Revolution. Britain must maintain a free and effective media capable of being a check on the abuse of power, and of giving people the information they need to make informed decisions. We will:

- Tackle the concentration of media power. We will act to prevent media mergers or take-overs, except where these can be shown to advance quality, diversity and access. We will require the Independent Television Commission to protect the position of smaller regional ITV companies within the network supply agreement.
- Maintain the role of the BBC as the benchmark of public service broadcasting, committed to quality, diversity and universal access. We will protect the independence and impartiality of the BBC through its Board of Governors and its licence fee.
- Improve access to information technology and the Internet. We will ensure that everyone in Britain can have access, either individually or through a wide range of public access points, to a nationwide interactive communications network by the year 2000.
- Increase access to the arts. We will use the National Lottery to endow, house and improve access to the arts. We will move towards the European average for public funding of the arts. We will ensure the principle of free access to national museums and galleries collections, starting with the removal of charges for school parties.
- Promote Britain's culture. We will promote film production in Britain. We will actively support the British Council to rejoin UNESCO. We will enhance the BBC World Service as a national asset.

## POLITICS

**Our priorities**  
are to:

- Restore trust between people and government, by ending secrecy and guaranteeing people's rights and freedoms.
- Reverse Britain's democratic deficit, by creating a fair voting system, reforming Parliament and setting higher standards for politicians.
- Give government back to the people, by decentralising power to the nation, regions and communities of the United Kingdom.
- Give individuals more power and political responsibility. We will introduce a fair and proportional voting system for all elections, and reform and strengthen local government in the province.
- Ensure respect for civil liberties. We will introduce an independent procedure for investigating complaints against the police, and reform the *Diplock* system so that three judges instead of one preside over non-jury trials. We will urgently implement the North Report recommendations for an independent commission to supervise parades and marches.

Justice responsible for protecting human rights and overseeing the administration of the legal system, the courts and legal aid. We oppose the introduction of identity cards.

□ Break open the excessive secrecy of government, by passing a Freedom of Information Act establishing a citizens right to know.

□ Cut back the quangos state. We will scrap unnecessary quangos, handing their functions over to elected bodies. We will require those that remain to meet in public and to list their members' interests. We will establish a fair, open and more representative appointment process for all quangos.

□ Give people more say in decision-making. We will make greater use of national referendums for constitutional issues, for example, changing the voting system or any further transfer of power to European institutions. We will enable referendums to be held on specific local issues where there is public demand.

**Renewing democracy**  
Britain's political institutions are outdated and unrepresentative. We will:

- Modernise the House of Commons. We will reduce the number of MPs by 200 (from 723 to 523) and introduce tougher rules for their conduct, behaviour and outside sources of income. We will improve drafting and consultation on legislation, and strengthen MP's ability to hold the government to account.
- Create an effective and democratic upper house. We will over two Parliament transform the House of Lords into a predominantly elected second chamber capable of representing the nations and regions of the UK and of playing a key role in scrutinising European legislation.
- Introduce a fair system of voting. We will introduce proportional representation for all elections, to put more power in the hands of voters and make government more representative.
- Make politics more stable. We will establish a fixed parliamentary term of four years.
- Clean up party funding. We will reform the way political parties are funded and limit the amount they can spend on national election campaigns. We will make each party publish its accounts and list all large donors.

**Giving government back to the people**  
Far too much power has been concentrated in Westminster and Whitehall. Democratic government should be as close to ordinary people as possible. We will:

- Introduce Home Rule for Scotland, with the creation of a Scottish Parliament, elected by proportional representation, and able to raise and reduce income tax.
- Introduce Home Rule for Wales, with the creation of a Welsh Senedd, elected by proportional representation, and able to raise and reduce income tax.
- Create the framework to make existing regional decision-making in England more effective and to establish the principle of free access to national museums and galleries collections, starting with the removal of charges for school parties.

**Strengthen local government.** We will actively support the British Council to rejoin UNESCO. We will enhance the BBC World Service as a national asset.

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□ Promote economic growth. We will strengthen the mid-land economy through the creation of effective border agencies. We will invest in education and promote inward investment.

□ Build on the Joint Declaration and the Framework Document, by working with the Irish Government to create agreement between as many of the constitutional parties as possible. Sinn Féin can only be admitted to this process if, in accordance with its own principles, it and the IRA turn their backs on terrorism. Meanwhile, we must remain vigilant and keep in place the present means for countering terrorism.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Our priorities**  
are to:

- Ensure that, for the millennium, every young person has had the opportunity to work, learn, train and make a positive contribution to society.
- Give women greater opportunities to play a full role in work and in society.
- Ensure dignity in retirement.
- Break the poverty trap that makes people better off on the dole than in work.
- Modernise Britain's welfare state for the twenty-first century, building a new cross-party partnership for reform.

**Breaking the poverty trap**  
Unemployment wastes the talents and denies people the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of their families and increase Britain's wealth. We will:

- Help long-term unemployed people back to work. We will establish a self-financing Benefit Transfer Programme allowing those who have been unemployed for a year or more to turn their unemployment benefits into an incentive for employers to recruit and train them. The value of the benefit to employers will be reduced.
- Break the poverty trap. We will take nearly 500,000 low earners out of income tax altogether by raising tax thresholds. This will provide lower taxes and new incentives to work, while cutting the benefits bill and reducing tax for 90 per cent of all income taxpayers. This will be paid for by introducing a new top rate of 50p on taxable income of over £100,000 a year. We will replace Income Support and Family Credit with a new, more efficient Low Income Benefit that increases financial incentives.
- Modernise Britain's welfare system. We will initiate a comprehensive review of the welfare system to build a new framework for welfare and opportunity on a cross-party basis. Our aim is to provide a more effective safety net for the disadvantaged, to encourage work, without compulsion, and to widen opportunities.

**Help parents to return to work.** We will develop a national childcare strategy, drawing on public and private provision. We will, over time, extend tax relief on workplace nurseries to other forms of day nursery care.

**Establish a voluntary Citizens Service to give people, especially young people, up to two years' work on such projects as environmental conservation, crime prevention, housing renovation, social services and the armed services.**

**Encourage a flexible labour market, while protecting the low paid with a regionally variable, minimum hourly rate.**

**Crack down on social security fraud and tax evasion and shift the money saved into new policies to enhance opportunities. We will tackle the high levels of fraud and overpayment in the social security budget. We will stop tax evasion.**

**Older people**  
Everyone in Britain should be able to look forward to a retirement of security, opportunity and dignity. Old people feel that they are fast becoming Britain's forgotten generation. We will:

- Guarantee everyone an acceptable minimum standard of living in retirement. We will create an additional top-up pension for pensioners with incomes below the Income Support level. This will be funded by earnings and tapered as outside income increases. The basic state pension will remain indexed to prices. We will start to phase out the expensive, unfair contributory system and base the right to a state pension on citizenship and residence.
- Enable people to choose when to start drawing a pension. We will bring in a flexible "decade of retirement".
- Protect the rights of older people. We will

legislate against discrimination on the basis of age.

□ Expand private pensions and give people more control over their pensions. We will see more people making provision for their old age. We will replace the State Earnings Related Scheme (SERPS) with a scheme under which all employees have personal or occupational pensions. Raising accrued SERPS will, however, be preserved. We will expand occupational and personal pension schemes by giving all employees an entitlement to participate in a pension scheme of their choice, funded by contributions from employers and employees. Pension rights will be fully secured if people change jobs. We will treat pensioners as deferred income from which pensioners have full rights of security, control and portability.

**Young people**  
We propose a new deal for young people, in which rights and responsibilities go hand in hand. We will:

- Expand opportunities. Our aim is that every young person between the ages of 16 and 25 will have the opportunity to either work, learn, train or take a place on our new Citizens Service.
- Restore security to excluded young people. The withdrawal of benefit rights has condemned thousands of young people to a life of worklessness. On the streets, at great long-term public cost, we will restore access to benefits for 16 and 17 year-olds. In the longer term, we will also scrap the lower rate of income support for those under 25.
- Ensure that young people can learn their rights and responsibilities, with citizenship classes in every school and parenting classes for young adults. We will give citizens' education, young people access to information about their legal rights and obligations, review the age of majority and ensure that young people are represented on bodies that especially concern them.
- Abolish existing charges for water and create a fair system of charging.

**Families**  
In all their forms, are a basic building block of society. But the nature of families is changing. This has brought new stresses which must be addressed. But it has also brought new attitudes, such as the sharing of family responsibilities, which should be encouraged. We will:

- Give families more security. We will take nearly 500,000 low earners out of tax altogether, by raising tax thresholds. We will replace Income Support and Family Credit with a new, more efficient Low Income Benefit that increases financial incentives.
- Introduce fair and workable child support. We will repeal the Child Support Act and abolish the Child Support Agency. We believe that parents should financially support their children at an appropriate level. Where there are disputes about the parents, we will ensure that the courts, not by an inflexible formula. We will create a new system of unified family courts to decide these questions.

**Promote good parenting.** We will support the provision of parenting classes for young adults. We will increase the role of parents in education and develop home-school partnership arrangements, to assist in addressing the needs of the child.

**Expand parental rights.** We will introduce a statutory right to parental leave and develop Maternity Benefit into a new, flexible parental benefit to be shared between parents. We will ensure that foster and adoption law is based on the suitability of prospective fosterers and the needs of the child.

**Help parents to return to work.** We will, over time, extend tax relief on workplace nurseries to other forms of day nursery care.

**Establish a voluntary Citizens Service to give people, especially young people, up to two years' work on such projects as environmental conservation, crime prevention, housing renovation, social services and the armed services.**

**Encourage a flexible labour market, while protecting the low paid with a regionally variable, minimum hourly rate.**

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- Enable people to choose when to start drawing a pension. We will bring in a flexible "decade of retirement".
- Protect the rights of older people. We will

throughout the European Union.

□ Ensure equal opportunities during all. We will require local authorities and housing associations to ensure equal opportunities in housing allocation. We will expand access to mother-tongue teaching, for both adults and children, where this takes place through self-help and community groups.

□ Free immigration laws from racial discrimination. We will ensure that immigration policy is non-discriminatory in its application. We will reform current immigration laws so as to enable genuine family reunions. We will restore benefit rights to asylum seekers and ensure that asylum claims are dealt with swiftly.

□ Increase ethnic minorities' confidence in the police. We will encourage the recruitment of ethnic minorities into the police force and require action to be taken against discrimination within the force. We will tackle any discriminatory use of police powers, such as stop and search, and enhance police action to deal with racial attacks. We will encourage the use of anti-racism training for police officers.

**Lesbians and gay men**  
In a free and tolerant society, discrimination on any grounds is unacceptable. We will ensure that all citizens are treated equally. We will:

- Ensure equality before the law for lesbians and gay men through our new Human Rights Commission and the Bill of Rights. We will create a common age of majority regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
- Stop discrimination. We will outlaw discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in housing and employment, including the armed forces, on grounds of sexual orientation. We will repeal "section 28" of the 1988 Local Government Act. We will reform the law, ensure that the police and local authorities are not effectively homophobic, and encourage police forces to be more representative.

## HEALTH

**Our priorities**  
are to:

- Halt all finance driven closures for 6 months, pending an independent audit of needs and facilities.
- Invest £200 million each year to recruit more staff from overseas to the NHS.
- Cut hospital waiting lists to a maximum of six months over three years.
- End the two-tier system in the NHS.
- Restore free eye and dental checks.

**Raising standards in the NHS**  
While many of the recent reforms to the NHS have been beneficial, they have resulted in the creation of a two-tier system. The standard of health care a person receives is increasingly becoming a lottery. The length of time people have to wait, the chance of treatment being postponed and the quality of health care vary enormously from one part of the UK to another. We will:

- End the built-in two-tier system in the NHS. We will end the present system where treatment depends on the type of GP people go to. We will treat all GPs equally, with a common basis for funding. We want all GPs to have the benefits of flexibility and access to services currently enjoyed by hospital doctors. Those who choose to manage their own affairs will be able to do so on their own or as part of a consortium. Those who do not will be able to leave management to the local health authority.

**Raise standards of care in all areas.** We will set up a National Inspectorate for Health and Social Care to improve standards and promote patient safety. This body will work with the Audit Commission to ensure that all systems are monitored and results in real improvements in patient care.

**Invest more in the NHS.** We will invest at least an extra £500 million every year in the NHS to pay for our policy priorities. This will be paid for by closing the loophole that allows employers to avoid paying National Insurance contributions on certain benefits in kind and by passing on the savings of a 10 per cent cut in VAT. We will use these extra funds to tackle the crisis in staffing, especially in the hospital sector, and begin a shift to preventive care. We will ensure that the NHS budget keeps pace with increasing cost pressures.

**Shift money from unnecessary bureaucracy into patient care.** We will move from annual to at least three-yearly contracts between Health Authorities and Trusts, and shift the money saved into front-line patient care. We will replace time-consuming local pay bargaining with a single pay structure and a single NHS-wide Pay Review Body that covers all pay, from the cleaner to the chief executive.

**Building on the best of the NHS**  
The NHS needs to be strengthened and improved. We will:

- Cut waiting lists. We will cut waiting times between diagnosis and treatment to a maximum of six months over three years.
- Improve the quality of care and raise morale. We will recruit and train more professional staff. Our new pay plans would, for instance, pay for the equivalent of 10,000 more nurses or 5,000 more doctors. We will ban the use of "gagging clauses" in employment contracts which prevent professional staff from speaking out against unsafe standards.

**Tackle the crisis in NHS dental care.** We will require local authorities to ensure that the public has access to NHS dentistry in all areas.

**Promoting good health**  
Britain has a health service that concentrates too much on curing illness rather than preventing it. A healthier nation and a more cost-effective NHS depend on shifting the emphasis towards prevention, tackling the root causes of ill health (e.g. poverty and homelessness) and making people more responsible for their own health. We will:

- Make prevention a priority. We will immediately abolish charges for eye and dental check-ups and freeze prescription charges as the first steps in a radical shift of policy that emphasises the prevention of illness rather than treatment.
- Encourage people to take more responsibility for their own health. We will improve health education and promote healthy living. We will ban tobacco advertising and promote anti-smoking campaigns. We will make the Health Education Authority truly independent and free to criticise government policy. We will ensure that food is healthy and safe.

will create an independent and powerful Food Commission, separate from MAFF, and responsible to Parliament for food quality and safety.

□ Put health promotion at the heart of government policy. We will require all government departments to assess the impact of their policies on health. Each year there will be an independent report to be published and debated in Parliament, on the state of the nation's health.

**Bringing health services closer to people**  
The local institutions of the NHS must become more accountable to the people they serve and more responsive to patients' needs. We will:

- Enable citizens to play a part in setting health policies in their area. We will build on current pilot schemes to bring together Health Authorities and Social Services Departments, within the framework of elected local authorities.
- Give local people a stronger voice on NHS Trusts. We will end the right of the Secretary of State for Health to appoint members of NHS Trusts, Authorities and Boards. We will require at least half the membership of Trusts to be drawn from the population they serve. We will open up meetings of NHS Trust boards to the public and press, and give local people, staff and professionals a stronger voice. We will guarantee direct representation from the staff of each Trust. We will give Community Health Councils improved rights to consultation and greater access to information and resources.

**Give the public more say in setting priorities within the NHS.** Difficult choices about priorities must be faced. They cannot be left to bureaucrats and health professionals alone. We will develop new ways of involving the public in setting health service priorities.

**Giving patients more choice**  
Patients should have more choice over their type of treatment, who delivers it and when. We will:

- Enhance the rights of patients. We will strengthen the Patients' Charter and include rights to treatment within a specified time, a choice of GP, information about the options for treatment, guaranteed access to health records and better redress.
- Ensure that action is taken to improve poor quality services. We will enable patients and staff to apply directly to our new National Inspectorate of Health and Social Care to carry out inspections and take action where deficiencies come to light.

**Community care**  
Our aim is to create a society in which people, wherever their needs, can live their lives with dignity. We will:

- Give people choice in the services they use and the way they are provided. We will require Councils to extend to those over 65 the right to arrange their own care privately, if they wish. This will promote independence and enable them to find better value for money.
- Care for carers. We will introduce a new Carer's Benefit, in place of the Independent Living Allowance, in order to meet more of the financial cost of caring. We will extend the Carer's Benefit, as resources allow, to those over retirement age and work to improve advice, information, training and counselling for carers. We will seek to increase access to respite care and ensure that carers and users are involved in decisions about care. We will draw up a Charter that sets out carers' rights and responsibilities.

**Establish high national standards for all community care services.** Our new independent Inspectorate of Health and Social Care will publish codes of practice for residential and nursing homes, and have the power to close any home that consistently fails short of national standards. We will introduce national standards and eligibility guidelines to ensure a "level playing field" of provision and charges.

**Protect people from the excessive cost of care.** We will, as resources allow, raise the threshold at which older people are required to make a contribution to their long-term care. We are committed to working on a cross-party basis, to establish a national agreement on a system for funding care services that does not penalise the frail.

## IN THE WORLD

**Our priorities**  
are to:

- Make the European Union work more effectively and democratically in its institutions.
- Widen Europe to include the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.
- Create a strong framework for Britain's defence and security through NATO and European co-operation.
- Give Britain a leading role in reforming and strengthening the UN and other international institutions.
- Promote an enforceable framework for international law, human rights and the protection of the environment.

**Positive leadership in Europe**  
Britain's interests can only best be pursued through constructive participation in an enlarged European Union. Our vision is of a European Union that is decentralised, democratic and diverse. A strong and united Europe, but one that respects cultural traditions and national and regional identities.

**In seeking to reform the EU, our priorities are to:**

- Give the British people a say. Reform that fundamentally changes Britain's place in Europe should only proceed if it has the explicit support of Britain's people. If there is any substantial change in Britain's relationship with the EU, the British people must give their consent through a referendum.
- Make EU institutions more democratic and accountable. We will give the House of Commons a more effective role in scrutinising European policy. We also want the Council of Ministers and the EC Commission to be more accountable to the elected European Parliament. We will introduce a fair and proportional voting system for British MEPs in time for the 1999 European Parliament elections.
- Make EU decision-making more efficient and effective. Europe cannot effectively enlarge without improving its decision-making. We therefore favour the wider application of majority voting. But we will keep the veto on all issues relating to the constitution, budgetary matters and regulations on pay and social security. We support the use of the "double majority", especially on matters such as foreign and security policy. Each member state must retain the unfettered right to make its own decisions on the commitment of its national troops.

**Pursuing Britain's interests in Europe**  
Britain has much to gain from EU membership. This will take new leadership, a new approach and a renewed sense of national confidence. Our aims in Europe are to:

- Enhance economic prosperity, by promoting the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and money throughout the EU and by completing the European Single Market, particularly in areas of financial services, pensions and air travel.
- Participate in a successful single currency. Being part of a successful single currency will bring low inflation and low interest rates.

investment and a loss of influence. However, three conditions must be met before Britain can join. First, the single currency must be firmly founded on the Maastricht criteria. Second, Britain must meet these criteria. Third, the British people must have agreed to it in a referendum.

□ Strengthen the European framework for peace and security. Britain's security and national interests are best pursued in partnership with its European neighbours. We will work to strengthen European Common Foreign and Security Policy to enable greater scope for united European action. Individual member states must be free to decide whether or not their national forces will take part in any particular action.

□ Fight crime and protect citizens' rights through more effective co-operation between EU states' police and customs forces with greater democratic accountability. We will work to improve European co-operation against cross-border criminal activity and allow free movement for Britain's people throughout Europe. The administration of border controls should remain with individual member nations until they can be confident that the EU's external borders are secure.

□ Reform the Common Agricultural Policy, conserve its rural systems of direct payments to support economic, social and environmental goals in rural communities.

□ Reform fisheries policies, scrapping the Common Fisheries Policy and replacing it with a new Europe-wide fisheries policy based on the regional management of fish stocks. We will take urgent action to end quota-hopping and begin the phased abolition of industrial fishing.

**Strong defence in an uncertain world**  
The first decades of the next century are likely to be turbulent and unstable everywhere, including within and around Europe. Britain must maintain an effective security capability. This will best be achieved through NATO and European co-operation, and this capability must continue to play a full part in both. We will:

- Maintain a strong defence at home and enable the UK to play a leading role in keeping international peace. We will maintain the UK's overseas defence capability at its current level, whilst ensuring UK forces meet current needs and are appropriate to potential threats.
- Retain Britain's basic nuclear capability through the Trident submarine force until such time as international multilateral nuclear disarmament can be achieved. We will restrict the number of nuclear warheads on Trident to the same number as currently deployed Polaris.
- Resist the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will press for the conclusion of a verifiable Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We will ensure that Britain plays an active part in talks to reduce the holdings of nuclear weapons.

□ Support the principle of common security. We support the extension of the security guarantees, from which Western Europe has benefited, to the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. We support NATO and its enlargement.

**Working for peace, security and stability**  
In an increasingly inter-dependent world, the security of a medium-sized nation like Britain is best preserved within a framework of international law that is effective and enforceable.

**Reforming the United Nations**  
Playing a leading role in strengthening and reforming the UN should be a central aspect of Britain's foreign policy over the decade. We will seek to:

- Strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capability so that it can take earlier and more effective action to prevent or suppress conflict. This should include establishing fast-track machinery for negotiating permanent, on-site peacekeeping forces made up from high-calibre troops provided by member states; the reinstatement of a Military Staff Committee; the establishment of a UN Staff College to train officers; and improvements to the UN's command, communication and intelligence capabilities.
- Support the establishment of an International Criminal Court to deal with genocide and war crimes.

**Protecting the global environment**  
Pollution and environmental degradation do not respect national borders. Countries must work together if the world's environment is to be protected and improved.

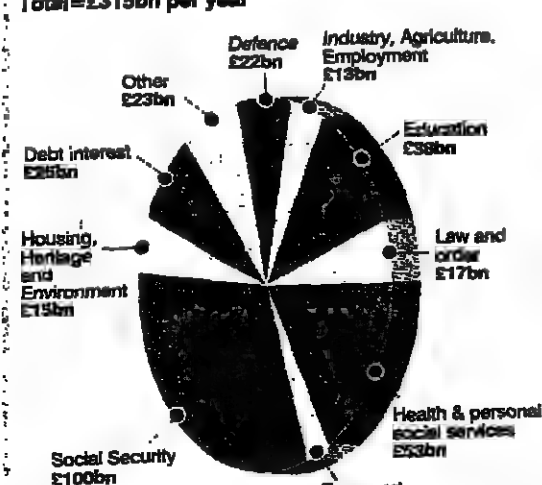
**Tackling world poverty**  
The elimination of global famine, pestilence and poverty is not only a moral challenge, it is also essential for the world's long-term stability and peace. We will:

- Increase Britain's contribution to overseas aid. We will set out a timetable for sustained progress towards achieving the UN target for overseas development aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP within the next ten years.
- Promote a timetable for debt relief to the poorest states including a programme for cancelling debt and the creation of new and additional resources for debt relief.
- Target Britain's bilateral aid where it is most needed. We will increase Britain's bilateral aid to the least developed countries and end the practice of tying aid.
- Require states that receive UK development assistance to respect the fundamental human rights of their citizens and suspend UK programmes where these standards are breached.
- Controlling arms sales. The global arms trade fuels conflicts, hinders prosperity and robs the world's poor of resources. Its growth must be diminished. We will:

# How we would alter tax and government spending

## CURRENT SPENDING

How the Government is spending your money (Current government spending plans 1997-98)



How these proposals would change government spending over a full year.

Liberal Democrats would increase government spending on:

- Education by £200 million.
- Health by £60 million.
- Pensions by £265 million.

Liberal Democrats would decrease government spending on:

- Private consultants by £120 million.
- Publicity by £25 million.
- Empty properties by £25 million.

How these proposals would change your income tax (1997-98).

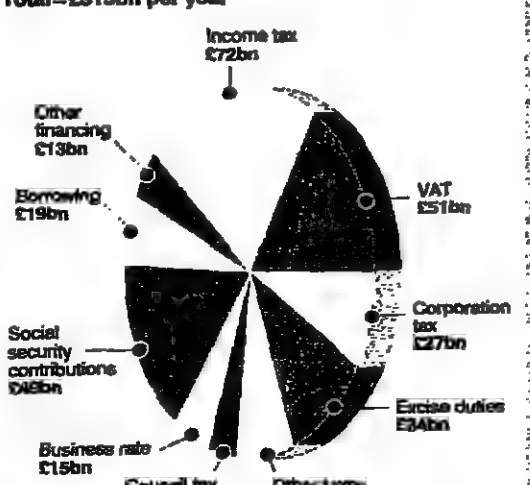
New personal tax allowance £4,245  
New basic rate £24p  
New rate for income over £100,000 50%

A copy of our Annual Tax Contract will be delivered to each UK household following the Budget each year. This Annual Tax Contract will be in keeping with our four Tax Principles:

1. No taxation without explanation: central Government should inform taxpayers of the ways in which their money is raised and spent, just as local councils now do.
2. No promises unless the bill is attached:

## CURRENT TAXATION

Where the Government's money comes from (Expected government revenue 1997-98)



How these proposals would change government revenue over a full year.

Liberal Democrats would increase government revenue on:

- Income tax by £200 million.
- Health by £60 million.
- Pensions by £265 million.

Liberal Democrats would decrease government revenue on:

- Private consultants by £120 million.
- Publicity by £25 million.
- Empty properties by £25 million.



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## Gokal to face BCCI civil suit

Liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will this week resume civil proceedings against Abbas Gokal, the disgraced shipping tycoon, in their efforts to recover funds for depositors.

Gokal, 61, was convicted of fraud and false accounting involving \$1.2 billion, and will be sentenced next month. Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, the joint liquidator, intends to press on with civil action against him. Further proceedings are pending in Pakistan against Gokal's defunct shipping company, the Gulf Group.

The liquidators believe Gokal may have assets worth £20 million, including a home in Ealing, West London, held through nominee companies.

## High hopes

Managers of small and medium-sized companies in Britain and Spain are confident about their economic prospects, while their counterparts in France, Germany and Italy remain pessimistic. According to the 31 European Enterprise Centre survey out today, managers of British and Spanish companies expect to take on more staff in the year ahead and see higher turnover and profit.

## Strong pressure

Pressure from non-executive directors on Liam Strong, chief executive of the ailing Sears retail group, is likely to intensify at a board meeting today after disappointing news from the Selfridges, Freemans and Adams group. So far Mr Strong has been stoutly defended by Sir Bob Reid, the chairman.

## Lost millions

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) has confirmed that it lost several million pounds — described as “minimal” — from trades by the bank's New York operation as a result of a difference of opinion over valuation in equity derivatives.

## Low pay deals

Average pay deals in the engineering industry in the three months to February were at their lowest for two years, at 3.08 per cent, according to a survey of more than 400 firms from the Engineering Employers' Federation.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK



# Tesco tipped to hit rivals for six with 10 per cent profit rise



Terry Leahy is expected to field an impressive set of figures for Tesco tomorrow

**TESCO:** Full-year figures tomorrow will confirm the group's position as Britain's premier food retailer as Terry Leahy settles into the chief executive's chair. A recent industry survey indicated Tesco was continuing to grab market share at the expense of its closest rival, J. Sainsbury.

NatWest Securities is looking for a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £680.7 million last year, to around £750 million, producing an 8 per cent increase in earnings per share to 23.7p. Overall sales are thought to have risen about 14 per cent to £13.7 billion with like-for-like sales up a healthy 7.5 per cent, two points above the industry average. Any fall in prices will have been more than offset by improved sales volumes of 5 per cent generated by Clubcard and Christmas promotions. A healthy increase in petrol margins is likely to trim an overall reduction in margins.

The move into financial services is likely to result in start-up costs of £15 million next year and in 1999, but NatWest continues to look for a final figure in the current year of £815 million. A 9 per cent increase in the payout to 10.5p is envisaged.

## MANCHESTER UNITED:

The Premiership side's Old Trafford stadium is filled to its 55,000 capacity every home game now that the new stand has been completed. That increase in gate revenue should be clearly reflected in half-year figures today, with pre-tax profits before transfers ranging from £16 million to £18 million, compared with £11 million last time. The figures are usually heavily weighted towards the first half, which covers the main football season. Even so, brokers are looking for full-year profits of £27.5 million against £16.7 million last time.

**TARMAC:** Brokers will be keeping a close eye on the group's progress after the

asset swap with rival George Wimpey. Signs of improved efficiency will be required when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow, although this is unlikely to be reflected in the profit numbers.

At the pre-tax level profits are expected to tumble almost 40 per cent from £97.1 million to £60 million, with earnings down from 7.5p to 4.5p. On the plus side, the aggregate arm of the business should reveal firm volume, with prices in Britain up between 6 per cent and 8 per cent, explaining why many investors have been happy to play Tarmac as a recovery situation.

In the US profits will be up with the help of a combination of higher prices and volumes and reduced costs. Professional services may have traded in the red, while contracting should produce a small improvement. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 5.5p.

**HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES:** There will be keen interest in half-year figures tomorrow, with brokers anxious to see how Macallan, Glenlivet is settling in after last year's acquisition.

Profits at the pre-tax level will be up 17 per cent from £22.2 million to £26 million, boosted by a first-time contri-

bution from Macallan, which makes around 60 per cent of its profits during the period covering Christmas. As a result, Macallan will have enhanced earnings during the first half, but is likely to dilute earnings for the year as a whole.

Both the price and sales of its Famous Grouse brand have declined marginally during the past three years, largely because of aggressive pricing tactics by rivals Bell's and Teacher's. The market will want to be reassured that the change of ownership has not disrupted the strong growth enjoyed by Macallan in recent years.

**SMITHS INDUSTRIES:** A strong performance from the group is expected by brokers when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits of around £80 million have been pencilled in, compared with £69.5 million last time. That is likely to produce earnings per share up from 15.4p to 17.4p.

Much of that growth is expected to come from aerospace, which continues to enjoy a revival of fortune worldwide. Smiths will have benefited from increased production quotas for the Boeing 737 and 777 series of which more than 1,000 are on order. This trend is expected to continue over the next few years with increased volumes pushing up margins.

In addition, medical systems is expected to provide double-digit growth, while the return on investments is likely to be around 13 per cent. The payout should grow 14 per cent from 5.6p to 6.4p.

**RMC GROUP:** The German recession is likely to cast a long shadow over the full-year figures on Thursday, with most brokers looking for a sharp downturn in profitability. Current estimates range from £260 million to £275 million, compared with £329.3 million last time. That is a downturn of almost 20 per cent. Earnings per share will be down 21 per cent from 77.5p to 61.1p.

The group is thought to have turned in a solid performance in Britain, underpinned by the upturn in housing starts during the second half of the year. This will have spilled over into other areas of the business such as aggregates, blocks, concrete products and blacktop.

The Jackbauer German residential housing market and a rising tax charge will take much of the glitz off this otherwise impressive performance. Yet shareholders might be able to expect a small increase in the dividend of around 4 per cent to 26.2p.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

# City looks for pointers on interest rates

Economic statistics are likely to take a back seat for the next couple of weeks, now that the election campaign is in full flow, with the markets most concerned with pointers for the interest rate outlook in the summer.

The monthly monetary meeting on Thursday is expected to be purely academic, unless Kenneth Clarke makes a surprising bid for a place in history by becoming the first Chancellor to raise rates in the middle of an election campaign. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is expected to use the occasion as a warm-up for the more important May meeting, when the Bank is likely to press the incoming Chancellor for an immediate rate rise.

The industrial production figures, published on Wednesday, are expected to show that the manufacturing sector remains relatively weak, with the rising pound beginning to take its toll of export output. MMS, the economic forecast

group, predicts that manufacturing production will fall 0.1 per cent in February with the annual rate declining from 1.6 per cent to 1.4 per cent.

In the US, Wall Street will be nervously watching the retail sales figures for March, due to be released on Friday. Evidence of further strong demand growth will harden the view that the Federal Reserve will tighten rates further in the coming months. MMS predicts retail sales will grow strongly again, rising 0.8 per cent in March. But factory-gate prices are predicted to remain subdued with no change in March expected for the producer prices index.

The German Government should be able to take some relief from the latest unemployment figures from Germany, due out tomorrow. Unemployment is predicted to fall by around 30,000 from its record high — the first decline for almost a year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### TODAY

Interims: Manchester United, MY Holdings. Finals: Burnham, Castrol, GFS Group, DCS Group, Goldsmiths Group, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros Group, Thompson Clive Investment, Trafficmaster. Economic statistics: G10 central bank governors' committee meeting at Bank for International Settlements.

### TOMORROW

Interims: James Halstead Group, Highland Distilleries, London & St Lawrence, Canel, Brands Hatch Leisure, Cassell, Horace Clarkson, Dewhirst Group, Golden Vale, IBC Group, Oasis Stores, QS Holdings, RJB Mining, Tarmac, Tesco, Vymura, Yorkvale.

### WEDNESDAY

Interims: Dowling & Mills, Smiths Industries. Finals: Abbot Group, Cavendish Group, Friendly Hotels, Highcroft Investment Trust, Lamont Holdings, Martin International, SENTRY Farming. Economic statistics: February industrial production, manufacturing output, February housing starts and completions.

### THURSDAY

Interims: Wyfield. Finals: CIA Group, French Connection, RMC Group. Economic statistics: Kenneth Clarke/Eddie George monthly monetary policy meeting; February new construction orders; SMMT March new car registrations.

### FRIDAY

Interims: Cirquel. Finals: None scheduled.

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Smiths Industries, Medeva and J Saville Gordon; Hold LucasVarity, Burmah Castrol and Rosspur. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Flextech, Cassell and Rackwood Minerals. Mail on Sunday: Buy Maid and Pemberton. Sunday Business: Buy Glynwed International, Chemring.

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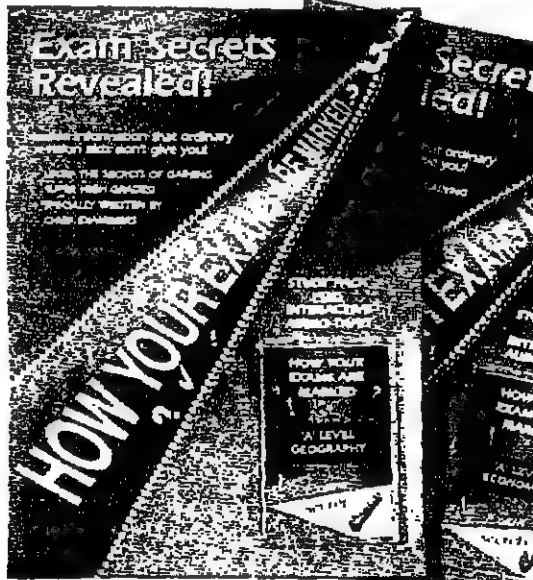
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CHANGING TIMES

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# Train groups on 'wrong side of financial tracks'

By ROBERT MILLER

A DAMNING report published today spells out the serious financial difficulties faced by at least five of the newly privatised train companies.

The *Prospects for the Franchised Railway*, compiled by Tim Powell, a former transport studies director at Coopers & Lybrand, says that five of the new train companies will incur heavy losses during their franchise terms. At least five others are likely to experience "serious financial difficulty".

Mr Powell is expected to conclude that a number of the train companies will need to receive additional public funding if the travelling public and commuters are not to face further serious disruption.

In his report, commissioned by Save Our Railways, a pressure group, Mr Powell sets out which franchises face collapse and which will make

respectable returns. The 25 privatised rail companies will receive £1.84 billion worth of subsidies in the current financial year, falling to £729.3 million by 2003-04, when the seven-year franchises end.

Keith Bill, national secretary of Save Our Railways, said: "This report will shock most people in the rail industry, the City and, of course, rail passengers in many parts of Britain."

Many of the train companies that successfully tendered for privatised rail contracts did so on bullish forecasts of future profitability, with little margin built in for error. On the heavily used commuter lines, particularly in the South East and South West, there is little prospect of attracting a huge increase in the number of regular customers.

Some franchises, however, start off by receiving relatively

large subsidies falling off to a point where they will be paying back funds to the Franchising Director.

Virgin West Coast, for example, part of Richard Branson's group of companies, is investing £750 million and receiving a further £1.5 billion in subsidy. But before its 15-year contract ends Virgin West Coast will be paying back more than £200 million a year.

Will Whitehorn, Virgin's spokesman, said yesterday: "We are investing heavily in new high-speed tilting trains, and when we have completed the programme we aim to cut journey times and take on airlines, coaches and cars. We hope to cut the journey of two hours and 50 minutes to Manchester by an hour."

Specific details of the privatised rail companies facing financial difficulties will be unveiled today.



Ernest Saunders, believed to be earning \$500,000 a year in the US, is at the centre of a row between shareholders

## Saunders forced back into spotlight

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ERNEST SAUNDERS, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, is in an uncomfortable position at the centre of a business and legal row that has blown up between the two main shareholders of Harpur-Gelco, a

Minneapolis-based information systems group that runs the Overdrive and Dialcard fuelcards.

The row between David Elias, whose Richbell group controlled Harpur, and Jupiter Partners of the US, majority holder of the merged H-G Holdings, has unveiled Mr

Saunders's quiet resurgence to an international management role thought to be paying him \$500,000 a year.

He has been chairing H-G's management committee, without being a director, since last July, when he was brought in to guide the managers of the group, whose 1994

merger has not proved smooth. After Mr Saunders' early release from Ford open prison, Mr Elias was one of the first to use his talents as a consultant to Richbell. Now the two have fallen out. Overworked lawyers were once more trying to counter any apportionment of blame.

## Utilities to launch rates fight

By ROBERT MILLER

PRIVATISED utility companies are to launch a campaign against plans to link a new business rate with profits that could cost up to £3 billion a year.

The 12-strong Wood committee, set up by the Department of the Environment last November under the chairmanship of a leading QC, is studying different ways in which the former public utilities might pay rates in the future.

Such a new tax would be in addition to Labour's planned "windfall" levy. The Wood committee, which is due to report in September, might introduce a new formula to calculate the level of rates paid by water, electricity, gas and rail companies.

Kay Hand, of the Electricity Association, which represents power companies, generators and distributors, said it would submit responses to the committee shortly. The association is expected to argue that utilities should be taxed in the same way as other companies.

## After May 1: EMU debated and rates up

THIS Thursday, the curtain will drop for the last time on the Ken and Eddie show, unless opinion polls turn out to be even more misleading than in 1992. The case for a rate hike has grown, but — however much Kenneth Clarke wants to be remembered as a sound Chancellor — the economy remains the Conservatives' one trump card and a rate hike now would only strengthen Labour's claim that an unsustainable pre-election boom has been created.

With Labour already using the "b" word, the odds of rate hikes after the election are high. The Deputy Governor of the Bank of England has said he would prefer base rates 0.25 per cent to 1 per cent higher; Gordon Brown, the putative Chancellor, will want to earn credibility, and can blame Tory excesses. Expect a half-point base rate rise as early as May 7, when the first monetary meeting

after the election is due. As base rates rise, the yield curve will flatten, but this, in itself, is no reason to buy gilts at present. If base rates rise by only a half point immediately after the election, investors are better off holding cash, unless yields on ten-year gilts rise by less than seven basis points. Such a small rise in yields would imply a significant and unlikely flattening of the ten-year yield curve from 1.5 to one percentage point. In the event of base rates rising a further half point later this summer, the break-even rise in yield drops to six basis points and the yield curve would have to become as flat as it was in 1992, when the UK was in recession, with a gap of only 0.45 per cent between three-month and ten-year rates.

One can argue that a base rate hike is already discounted, but one needs only to look at recent behaviour in the US to see the dangers in this assumption. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, made it pretty clear that he intended to raise rates and so it was supposedly discounted by the markets. Nevertheless, in the week after the quarter-point Fed funds hike, ten-year US yields backed up 0.2 per cent. Investors have reasoned that if the Fed can hike once, it can hike twice or even thrice. It is likely to be a similar story in the UK. This interest-rate cycle will not be as dramatic as previous cycles, but rates are a blunt weapon and Labour has eschewed raising income taxes as an alternative way to restrain demand — at least in its first Budget.

Surprisingly, the gilt market has been warming to the idea of a Labour victory. Even more surprising is the fact that the market wants a landslide. One opinion poll last week showed Labour's lead shrinking. If this were to continue, raising the spectre of only a narrow Labour victory or even a hung parliament, gilt yields would rise. It is argued that a sizeable majority would strengthen the leadership's hand and enable Tony Blair to keep the remaining left-wing pressure groups in his party under control. In this case, fiscal and monetary policy would be relatively tight, but, more importantly, Mr Blair would be able to override the Labour Eurosceptics and adopt a pro-EMU stance. If the UK is going to join EMU, the gilt-Bund spread is extremely attractive, even if entry is delayed a year or two.

Certainly, after the election, the EMU debate will heat up. Continental governments have been quiet about the UK's position, but this will change after May 1; business is also likely to become more vocal about risks of being left out. However, Labour has pledged a referendum and Mr Brown has already added his own conditions to the Maastricht criteria. As for fiscal policy, demands on the public purse already seem to be building up, even with very low rates of unemployment and even before the pressure groups muffled by Mr Blair in the run-up to the election come out of the woodwork. It will be some months before Labour's policies become clear. Meanwhile, base rates will rise. Investors considering buying gilts should hold off for a few months.

GLENN DAVIES AND ALASTAIR ALEXANDER  
Credit Lyonnais

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

#### GREMIAL

(b) Pertaining to the lap or bosom. As a noun, "the cloth laid on a bishop's knees to keep the oil off his vestments during ordinations". Also *gremial* is a suitable word for a table napkin, which can be tucked in at the neck or spread across the lap.

#### TONITRIOUS

(c) Thunderous, explosive. From the Latin words for thunder and thunderous. "And what is our mood this merry evening. Moon of my Delight? Equanimitous or tonitrous?"

#### GRIDE

(e) To scratch, scrape or cut with a sound that grates the ears. Onomatopoeic. A useful little word that deserves to be more widely used, for example, to describe the screech of chalk or fingernail on blackboard, or the compositions of some modern serious musicians.

#### REMIPED

(d) Having feet adapted for use as oars. For example, swans, ducks and certain insects. From the Latin *rem* = a rower, *pedis* = a foot. The word may be used as a substitute for *megapod* when arguing with a policeman.

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

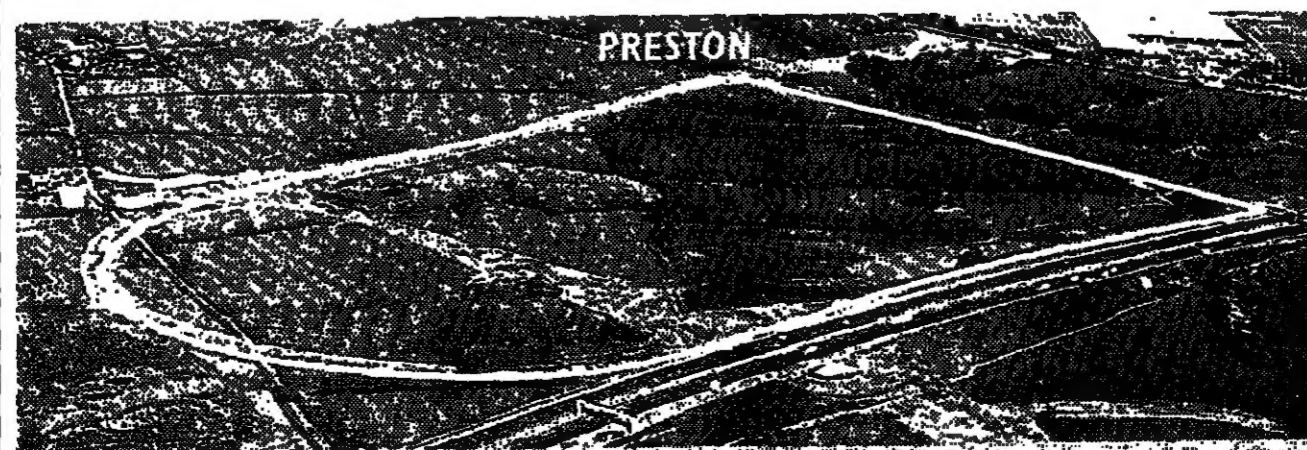
1... Nf4+ 2 gxf4 2 Kf1 wins quickly! 2... gxf4 3 Qc3 3+ 1 Kf1 Qh7 and White will soon be mated.



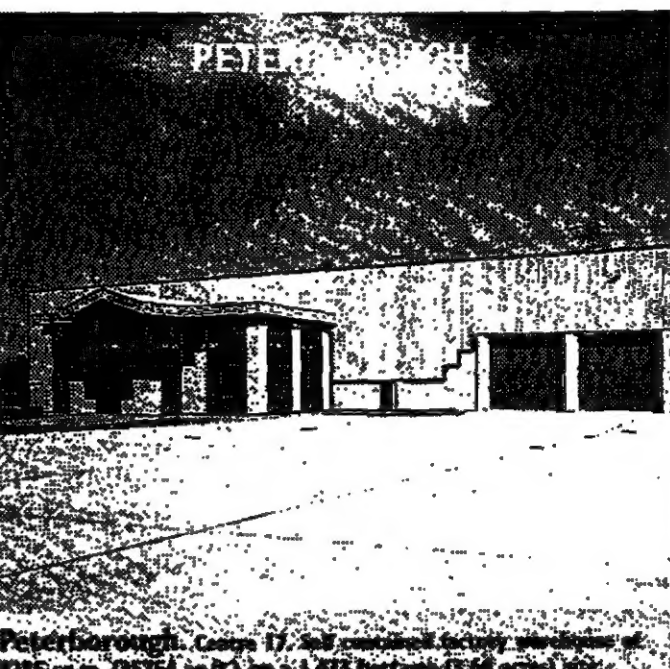
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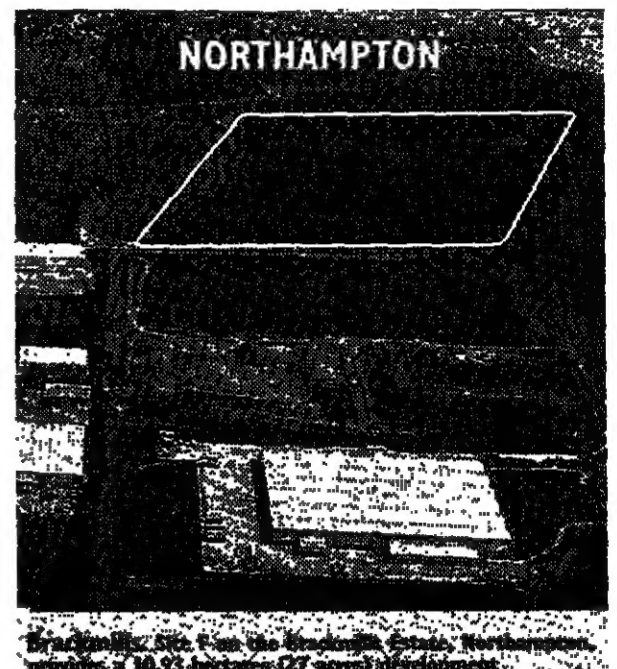
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The hunt is on for partners, says Oliver August

# Airbus aims high with plans for superjumbo

To some, the Airbus plant in Toulouse is the birthplace of future European industrial power. To others, it is yet another example of wasteful continental megalomania.

Eurocrats point to Concorde, which soon conformed to the British view of all things French. It sounded great on paper but turned out to be as profitable as the glass pyramid in front of the Louvre.

Airbus managers can now point with pride to their own family of aircraft. Last week British Midland ordered its first planes made in Toulouse in a £200 million deal. The European consortium has not yet matched Boeing's profits, but it is not far from outstripping the world's top planemaker.

Concorde One, the first supersonic passenger aircraft, is parked by the factory gates, a reminder of past follies. In the plant, engineers from the four partner nations are assembling the half a million parts that make up an Airbus. Bearded men with Costa del Sol tans are hunched over a spaghetti junction of wires inside an A310 wing, assembled on the old Concorde production line.

The wing skeleton was built in Chester by British Aerospace, flown to Dasa in Hamburg for finishing and sent to Toulouse to be fitted to the fuselage by Aerospaiale. Other wing parts originate from Casa in Spain. The finished aircraft is flown back to Hamburg for the seats to be fitted. European integration is in its truest form.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, likes to speak of the lands between the Atlantic and the Urals as the common European home. If he came to the A340 plant, the largest building in Europe, according to Airbus, he would find modern technology used to engineer European integration. The bearded men call it automatic riveting. The tiny nuts that hold the aircraft together are shot into the fuselage by a blue octopus-like machine wrapped around the empty hull.

One shudders at the thought of dealing with the political equivalent of an automatic riveting machine. Yet, on his visit, Herr Kohl would no doubt think that even here in the haven of Euro integration, the British stay on the fringes.

The British Aerospace production centre is hidden on the far side of the plant behind heavy-duty security fences. Over lunch, one French executive bemoaned that the Eng-



RETURN ON INVESTMENT					DEMAND				
30 aircraft per annum					1997-2016 deliveries of aircraft larger than 747 (1,440 aircraft)				
Operating Margin (Per cent)	Total Investment (\$ billion)	Operating Margin (Per cent)	Total Investment (\$ billion)		Rest of world 5%	Europe 21%	North America 20%	Asia-Pacific & PCR 54%	
10	12	15	10	12	5	5.8	4.8	3.7	
5	2.8	2.9	1.9	5	10	11.1	9.3	7.4	
10	5.6	4.6	3.7	10	15	16.7	13.9	11.1	
15	8.3	6.9	5.6	15					

Source: Merrill Lynch

lish Channel was still wider than the Atlantic Ocean. Airbus is still less than its constituent companies.

The consortium is about to undergo a rite of passage that could establish it as an innovative leader in the world aviation market, or kill the company in one swoop by burdening it with debts. The project in question is the superjumbo, or A3XX.

Boeing has cornered the market in large aircraft with its 747, earning princely profits. Airbus offers its own twin-aisle jumbo, but the 747 is significantly larger. Hence, Airbus is planning to launch a double-deck aircraft that can carry up to 800 or even 1,000 passengers. It is hoping to open up its own large aircraft market and outdo the money-making machine in Seattle. Designers have combined modern fly-by-wire avionics with a fuselage that could hold a McDonald's outlet, a gym or a bar.

The problem is how to pay

for it. The cost of developing the A3XX is unclear. The official Airbus figure is \$3 billion. Sir Richard Evans, BAE chief executive and an Airbus board member, puts the figure closer to \$10 billion. Boeing thinks its rival might spend as much as \$12 billion. Mindful of Concorde, some analysts say \$15 billion is not unrealistic.

Whatever the final sum, Airbus does not have that kind of money.

Sir Richard said: "The A3XX will not be built unless we bring in new partners." Airbus is talking about giving 40 per cent of the project to risk-sharing partners. The logic is simple. Other national champion manufacturers will contribute new funds and act as salesmen to their national carriers.

Airbus is conducting a beauty pageant for competitors interested in a slice of

superjumbo work. In Europe, the first partners have been found. Agreements were struck with Fokker Aviation, Belairbus and Finavia. Talks with Saab are said to be advanced. And Alenia, already Airbus's closest outside partner, wants an 8 to 10 per cent share.

These companies are mid-gets compared with the Airbus owners. To gain real outside expertise and extra access to world markets, the consortium must look further afield. America is an obvious, if dangerous, choice.

Airbus said about North America: "Discussions with several companies are under way with a potential cumulative programme share of 10-15 per cent." Lockheed Martin is one of the makers courted, but the White House will want to protect Boeing.

The real prize catch would be an Asian company. Technical input might be negligible, but Asia has the world's fastest

growing demand for flights, with a particularly high demand for large aircraft. Korean and Chinese companies are the main focus. China alone, with its billion-plus population and annual economic growth of more than 10 per cent, would be ideally suited to the A3XX. Airbus said: "We intend to allocate at least 10-15 per cent of the project to the Far East."

Airbus also wants to make local suppliers risk-sharing partners. This would be the first time that Middle England's widget makers would be involved in such a huge project. Risk-sharing in their cases would mean they had to pay for the development of their own tools and production facilities without being guaranteed usage.

Last, but not least, Airbus wants to tap the budgets of European governments — not for handouts but launch-aid loans. The economic climate may never be as favourable. Barnaby Wiener, of Merrill Lynch, said: "Labour governments have traditionally been keen on long-term investments like this." But Gordon Brown, if he becomes Chancellor, is unlikely to be generous.

BAe could ask for £240 million. Launch aid covers a third of development costs, says \$3 billion. After Airbus, has farmed out 40 per cent, BAe's A3XX stake will be 12 per cent. As a percentage of \$3 billion that is \$360 million, or £240 million. The Treasury will need no rocket scientists to work out the commitment.

Is the A3XX another Concorde? Airbus makes a vigorous case for the aircraft. Its research suggests a market for 1,440 superjumbos over the next two decades. Analysts believe realistic demand is only half that. Who is right is secondary. Calculations by Mr Wiener suggest that even at lower production rates, the A3XX can be profitable as long as investment costs are kept down and operating margins are healthy.

Airbus could make an 8.3 per cent return on its A3XX investment even if it sold only half as many aircraft as analysts predict. 30 a year. However, this assumes investment costs of only \$10 billion and operating margins of at least 15 per cent.

Whether Airbus is a Phoenix or an Icarus, it's all in the numbers. And should you want a superjumbo, the price tag is \$195 million.

their temper with colleagues who hog office equipment, according to a survey by Gestetner, the distributor of office automation products. A shameless 7 per cent admit to never refilling the photocopier after using the last sheet of paper. More than half admit to having the nightmare of printing a huge mailing and then discovering a spelling mistake. Six in ten admit to having printed countless copies instead of one.

THE Barclay Brothers are keeping the Palm Court at Piccadilly's Ritz Hotel open to catch the general election result. Die hard politicians will be charged £35 a head for a buffet. Two huge screens will be tuned to BBC.

MORAG PRESTON

## Blair facts of a Major welcome

THE newly launched *Real Business* magazine this month includes a letter from John Major, welcoming the publication. On Downing Street headed notepaper, the Prime Minister writes: "I am delighted to welcome the publication of *Real Business*. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the bedrock of the economy. Surprisingly, I can't find a similar missive from Tony Blair in the glossy. Maybe his invitation to comment, delivered from Caspian Publishing's office in Millbank Tower to Labour's war room on the floor below, was lost along the way."

EMPLOYEES at the BBC are

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

bracing themselves for a dressing down. Helen Bowden, the recently appointed head of BBC business output, will deliver her gameplan tomorrow. Rumour is that the *Business Breakfast* desk is just not big enough for both Sarah Coburn and Paul Burden.

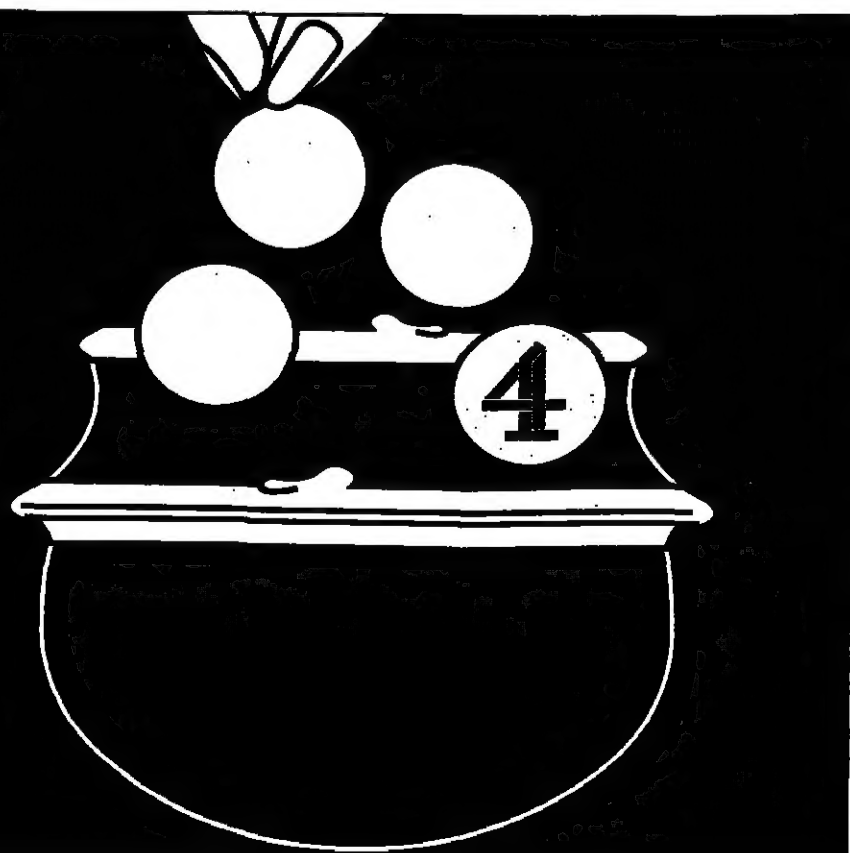
**Marathon man**  
AN UPDATE on the saga at Commercial Union, where two directors almost came to blows trying to secure a place

on the firm's yacht sailing in the BT Global Challenge. Ian Reynolds, managing director of CU Life, came up trumps for the "Directors' Leg" from Wellington to Sydney. Cees Schraauwers, managing director of CU Non-Life, will not be outdone. He is running in the London Marathon.

**Cabinet continuity**  
WHATEVER the outcome of the election, I am assured that Humphrey, the Cabinet cat, will be in the safest of hands.

**Fax figures**  
FIGHTS over the office fax machine are as regular as the rush for the door at the end of the day. A hefty 76 per cent of employees admit to losing

## Mrs Cohen's Money: Tonight 8.00



## A gift for making money

Mrs Cohen's Money

Channel 4, 8.00pm

Meet Mrs Bernice Cohen, one of the less likely hosts for a series on personal finance. But Mrs Cohen has been there and done it and sees no reason why we, too, should not make our money grow like weeds. She is 60, small and voluble and sounds like Barbara Windsor. Seven years ago she lost all her savings in a self-publishing venture. She started again and has made a fortune by investing in stocks and shares. She did it, and this is the message she wants to pass on, with no formal training. Brushing aside the common perception that the stock market is risky, she urges us to remove our money away from boring building societies and take the plunge. Perhaps not all of us have Mrs B's shrewdness. Sensing that Polly Peck was in trouble she sold her shares before you could say Asil Nadir. Much bigger investors were left wishing they had done the same.

The Antiques Show

BBC2, 8.30pm

The title is apt. This is not the *Antiques Roadshow* but a close relative. The new series can offer no equivalent to the amazed look of somebody who paid ten bob for a painting at a jumble sale and now discovers it is worth thousands of pounds. But the magazine format, linked by Francine Stock, offers a diverting mixture of regular strands and one-off reports and has a less elitist feel. The tone is set with a feature on Bridget Beasley, who has been collecting anything and everything for 26 years and has an amazingly cluttered house to prove it. Except that she would not call it clutter. The programme follows an antiques dealer on his rounds and seeks ideas on the antiques of the future. If you believe Sebastian Conran you will be starting to hoard designer lavatory brushes as if they were bars of gold.

The Surgery

Channel 4, 9.00pm

There cannot be many GPs who claim Bertolt Brecht as an inspiration but Dr Aneez Esmail has a Brecht poem constantly in mind. It goes like this. A poor man visits his doctor with a chest infection because his house is damp. The doctor gives the



Presenter Francine Stock (BBC2, 8.30pm)

man a prescription but says he really needs a prescription for a new house. Dr Esmail runs a practice in inner-city Manchester. He and his team deal with people who are often victims of bad social conditions. Alcoholism, drug abuse, depression and mental illness are common. It is not surprising that patients can be difficult, sometimes aggressive, and NHS resources are stretched thin. This three-part series highlights dedicated professionals who balance demanding jobs with looking after families and hope, when the evidence often seems to be the contrary, that they can make a difference.

Armstrong and Miller

Channel 4, 11.00pm

It is no good asking the real Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller to stand up, for the essence of their act is appearing as other people. Their forte is the comedy sketch and they write their material as well as perform it. They have emerged as one of the most promising young double acts on the circuit though on the evidence of this selection, called from their recent series on the *Pantomime Comedy Channel*, they are still looking to establish a singular identity. Their Flavia and Venetia, shrill owners of a vegetarian restaurant, are Hinge and Bracket crossed with the Two Fat Ladies. But they show a shrewd appreciation of the absurd and they have absorbed that most useful rule of comedy: never be afraid of underplaying. Peter Waymark

### RADIO CHOICE

Great Clubs of Europe

Radio 5 Live, 7.35pm

It's football clubs that soccer commentator John Motson is on about specifically some of the clubs that have won the European Cup. This is a six-part series, kicking off tonight with a profile of Real Madrid. In the second half of the 1950s, it began to look as if the club had taken up permanent residence in Spain — five consecutive wins from 1956 to 1960, another win in 1966 and runners-up honours in 1962 and 1964. Inevitably, Motson recalls the contributions that Alfredo Di Stefano and the Brazilian Real made to Real Madrid's remarkable run of successes. In the coming weeks, *Great Clubs of Europe* will be turning the spotlight on Celtic, Ajax, Bayern Munich, Liverpool and AC Milan.

### RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whitey 1.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Kevin Greening 6.30pm Evening Session 8.30pm Live Music Update 8.40pm Andy Kershaw 10.00pm John Peel 11.00pm The Late Show 11.30pm The Night Show

### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm David Bown 4.00pm John Peel 7.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00pm Malcolm Lockyer 9.00pm Big Band Special 9.30pm Hayes 10.00pm Richard Allen 12.00pm Steve Madden 3.00pm Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am The Magazine with Diana Madi 12.00pm Midday with Mark Radcliffe 1.00pm Moneycheck 2.00pm Focus on Five 4.00pm John Peel 7.00pm News 7.30pm Great Clubs of Europe 8.00pm The Monday Match Leads v Blackburn Rovers. Plus news of the weekend's European football 10.00pm Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00am After Hours with Paul Harcourt and Linda McDermott 2.00am Up At Night

### TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wan 7.00pm Paul Ross 8.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinklage 7.00pm Dee's Sportszone 10.00pm James Whiske 1.00am Miles Dickinson

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes C.P.E. Bach (Harpischord Concerto in D, W16); Strauss (Symphonic Fantasy Die Frau ohne Schatten); Tchaikovsky (Pezzo Capriccioso in B minor, Op 62); Stravinsky (Symphony No 7) 9.00am Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Debussy (Belle nuit, Invitation to the Dance); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, HVI 25); Lowie (Die Wandende Glocke; Gottes ist der Orient); Debussy (Suite Bergamasque) 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Peter Burdon-Pagge. Includes Mozart (Serenade in D, K239); Brahms (Two Motets, Op 23); Reger (Concerto in F, Op 123); Bach (Italian Concerto in F, BWV1031); Janacek (Violin Sonata); Haydn (which the American poet Thomas Lynch talks about his work as an undertaker in a small town in Michigan) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Miklos Rozsa. Introduced by Roderic Dunnet 1.00pm News; Rites of Spring, BBC Lunchtime Concert, featuring the BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Alexander Tiltov. Stravinsky (Concerto in E flat, Dumbarton Oaks; Candide Sacrum; Danes Concertos) 2.00pm Visitors to the Proms. Alexander Toradz, piano, Rotterdam Philharmonic, under Valery Gergiev. Debussy (The Marquise of St Sebastian, excepts); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2); Stravinsky (The Firebird) 3.45pm Everything but the Crazyhouse. See Choice 4.15pm The Praetorius Family. John Scott performs a programme of organ music by members of this dynasty. Includes Hieronymus Praetorius (Magnificat Sexti Toni; Vedilla Regia); Jacob Praetorius (Praetorium ex F; Vater Unser); Michael Praetorius (En Feste Burg) 7.00pm The Proms. Alexander Toradz, piano, Rotterdam Philharmonic, under Valery Gergiev. Debussy (The Marquise of St Sebastian, excepts); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2); Stravinsky (The Firebird) 3.45pm Everything but the Crazyhouse. See Choice 4.15pm The Praetorius Family. John Scott performs a programme of organ music by members of this dynasty. 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# Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin

How long has it been since we had a drama that hinged on a commode? A while, I'll warrant. And not just any commode, this was a commode meticulously and consistently shorn of its defining article... well, most of it anyway. This was *Roommate*.

"Did you put her on roommate?" asked somebody important at Skelthwaite Medical Centre, as episode one of *Where the Heart Is* (ITV) reached a climax that I for one had not been expecting. "Aye, I put her on roommate," said District Nurse Peggy Snow, played by Pam Ferris, who already caused a stir by wearing a track suit. But I'm straying; back to roommate.

"Did Mrs Hutton ask to be put on roommate?" demanded important person. Now, this was unlikely as Mrs Hutton was dying a horrible death at the time and roommate was probably the last

thing on her mind. At least I hope it was — too awful to think that her very last thought on earth was "I must go to roommate". Her husband, however, did have an inkling that this might be an old district nurse trick to hasten the end of the terminally ill. "Why are you putting her on roommate?" There was a brief but fatal pause (it's all right, there was a brief but heavily pregnant pause just seconds later. Life goes on you know). Roommate had done trick.

Somewhere, I suspect, there is already a tape of out-takes from this very northern drama, with the likes of Ferris and her co-star Sarah Lancashire apologising to each other in their best theatrical tones: "Sorry darling, afraid I said the. Can we go again?" Aye, 'appen we can.

Accents apart, the series is a fairly cynical amalgam of others that have gone before — the story-lines of *Peak Practice*, the scenery

of *All Creatures Great and Small* and the uniforms and sensible shoes of *The District Nurse*. But Ferris is as good as ever (Lancashire spent most of last night's episode giving birth, so it was difficult to judge her contribution), is ably assisted by Tony Haygarth as her husband; and if the supporting performances are up to the standard set by Andrew Readman ("I know what you did, you put my mother on roommate") then it could be around for a lot longer than six episodes.

Another triumph of drama over dialogue was *The Ice House* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). Hugely distinguished cast, hugely expensive-looking production values but every now then a line so awful you couldn't believe anybody had actually uttered it. "You know what it reminds me of?" mused the charming Chief Inspector Walsh (Corin

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Rodgrave working hard, but still sounding very like Chief Inspector Wexford) as he surveyed the decomposed body. "The bones on a breast of lamb... after my wife has skinned the meat off... with a sharp knife."

But I think my favourite was "walk through the main house until you reach the West wing" the line which gloriously celebrated the fact that while country houses

such as Streech Grange may be chock full of lesbians these days, some things in murder mysteries never change. Like the pub falling silent when somebody new walks in. Honestly it did, twice.

What saved it from being total hokum (never can so many policemen have raked so many small patches of lawn for so long) was the quality of the acting and the unlikely but engaging attraction between Anne Catrell (Kitty Aldridge) and DS McLoughlin (Daniel Craig). Catrell turned out only to be pretending to be a lesbian, which left me a little confused as to what she was doing at the Grange in the first place, but was terribly convenient if you were a newly separated detective sergeant who fancied her.

Last night's denouement was, quite properly, in the drawing room, with all manner of potential suspects arriving, as tradition dictates, through the French win-

dows. Once the rather complex plot had been explained to them all, that just left a neat little twist in the wine cellar and a handful of loose ends. Such as, why did nobody fancy Frances Barber?

Saturday night saw Gaby Roslin do just about enough to rescue her career with *Whatever You Want* (BBC1). It was deeply unambitious, totally harmless and a modest amount of fun. Another way of putting it would be *Jim'll Fix It* but without the bathos, most of it, anyway.

Drawing on her considerable reserves of sincerity, enthusiasm and niceness, Roslin fixed it for a grown-up to go swimming with dolphins, an unsuccessful under-11s football team to go training with Bobby Robson in Barcelona (I hope that she also fixed it for Robson to keep his job long enough) and for an excited teenager to step out with teen heart-throb, Sean

McGuire. But the best part — or certainly the spookiest part — was the opening contest between three fortnightly girls who desperately wanted to be famous. It was won by a girl who could have been Roslin's twin sister. Scary, huh?

Finally, *Family Money* (Channel 4) came to a bizarre end, hampered — as it was from the start — by two things. First was the channel's blinkered decision to put it out against established audience-pullers on both ITV and BBC1 and second was a curious lack of narrative tension. There were all these wonderful characters (I shall miss Della and Ella particularly), all these wonderful actors giving splendid performances, but almost no story (or certainly none interesting enough) to take us from one week to the next. The house story petered out, the murder story petered out and eventually Fran (Claire Bloom) petered off to Islamabad. As I say, bizarre.

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (11533)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (16981)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (T) (8196755)
- 9.20am Style Challenge (3607620)
- 9.45am Killy (T) (242668)
- 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51991)
- 11.00am News (T) and weather (8483303)
- 11.05am The Really Useful Show (T) (9226194)
- 11.35am Change That (6559668)
- 12.00am News (T) and weather (4452571)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5004200)
- 12.35pm Good Living Presented by Jane Asher (8853571)
- 1.00am News (T) and weather (28378)
- 1.30am Regional News (5047255)
- 1.45am The Weather Show (3996362)
- 1.50am Neighbours (T) (22890910)
- 2.15am Guinness (3905822)
- 3.00am Through the Keyhole New series with David Frost (2129)
- 3.30am Playdays (T) (610281) 3.50am The New Yogi Berra Show (877939) 3.55am Bodger and Badger (T) (7380858) 4.10am Casper. New series (8250771) 4.35am 50/50 New game show for two teams of 50 from schools across the country (T) (7562571) 5.00am Newsround (T) (5213620) 5.10am Blue Peter (T) (8835561)
- 5.35am Neighbours (T) (69575)
- 6.00am News (T) and weather (910)
- 6.30am Regional news magazines (T) (262)
- 7.00am Ant's TV Favourites New series. Steve Wright returns to the studio, on some of the BBC's most popular programmes and celebrities (T) (4910)
- 7.30am Here and Now A police task force set up to tackle the growing multimillion-pound trade in counterfeit luxury goods. John Walters searches for Britain's champion quiz show contestant. (T) (674)
- 8.00am EastEnders Tony puts the past behind him and makes a last start at the Watford Gazette (T) (3858)
- 8.30am Panorama: The Leader Interview in the first of four live election programmes, the Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, is interviewed by David Dimbleby (T) (9468)
- 9.00am News (T) regional news and weather (1537)
- 10.00am Patriot Games (1982) with Harrison Ford, Sean Bean, Anne Archer and Patrick Bergin. A former CIA agent on holiday in Britain finds an IRA attack on a member of the Royal Family, killing one of the terrorists in the process, and soon finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse. Directed by Phillip Noyce (T) (3842)
- 11.50am Film 97 with Barry Norman includes reviews of *The Piano* and *Larry Flynt*. *Fever Pitch*, based on Nick Hornby's book, and *Turbulence* Woody Allen talks about his first musical, *Everyone Says I Love You* (T) (731991)
- 12.20am They Call Me Mister Tibbet (1970) Sidney Poitier reprises his role in the first of his four roles as a detective, investigating the murder of a prostitute and trying to clear a close friend of the crime. Directed by Gordon Douglas (T) (19534)
- 2.05am Weather (3368885)

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### BBC2

- 6.00am Learning to Learn (2482281) 6.25am Open University Science Skills (2574215) 6.50am A School for Our Times? (2725213) 7.15am See Hear Between Her Turtles (T) (8286194) 7.30am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (4377649) 7.55am Blue Peter (T) (8862823) 8.20am Secret Life of Toys (T) (3354842) 8.35am The Raccons (T) (906281) 9.00am Cartoon (2213587) 9.10am Enchanted Tales (T) (8815839) 10.00am Teletubbies (56741) 10.30am The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (T) (3389910) 11.15am Alas Smith and Jones (T) (3178466) 12.05pm The Flintstones (T) (9345465) 12.30am Working Lunch (69705) 1.00am Secret Life of Toys (T) (12544718) 1.15am Zoggs Clothes (T) (2261868)
- 1.25am The Letter (1940, b/w) with Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall and James Stephenson. A woman schools an alleged intruder on her husband's rubber plantation, but incriminating evidence soon emerges that suggests it may in fact have been a cold-blooded murder. Directed by William Wyler (74489674)
- 3.00am News (T) (7756688) 3.05am The Natural World: Argentina (T) (T) (9505903) 3.55am News (T) 4.00am Bookbusters (8957129) 4.25am Ready, Steady, Cook (8950216) 4.55am The Future of marriage (9950649) 5.30am Today's Day (939)
- 6.00am The Simpsons (T) (885804)
- 6.25am Space Precinct (T) (T) (719387)
- 7.10am Electric Circus With the actor Mark Hamill (395248)
- 7.30am The Sci Files How the ambitious Human Genome Project to map every gene in the world has fallen foul of commercial pressures (216)
- 7.58am Video Nation Election Shorts (495459)
- 8.00am Top Gear Motorsport The Portuguese leg of the World Rally Championship (T) (200)
- 8.30am The Antiques Show (178) Francine Stock visits everything from car boot sales to major London auctions, while dealer David Dickinson provides invaluable tips on snapping up bargains (T) (7007)
- 9.00am The Outer Limits Sci-fi drama (T) (829484)
- 9.45am This Life Miles adventures in a lonely hearts column (T) (911945)
- 10.30am Newswatch (T) (47194)
- 11.30am The Kingdom (3/5) Offbeat hospital drama, in Danish with English subtitles (712216)
- 12.25am Weather (345427)
- 12.30am-6.00am The Learning Zone Portuguese Voyages of Discovery (80175) 1.00am Crossing the Border (84311) 1.30am The Modern Art Rodin (80058) 1.50am Language Season (27137) 4.00am Italia 2000 (93137) 4.30am Royal Institute Discourse (22576) 5.00am RCN Nursing Update (21953)

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### HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (6856212)
- 9.25am Chain Letters (T) (2622939)
- 9.55am Regional News (T) (2741026)
- 10.00am The Time, the Place (56787)
- 10.30am This Morning (T) (6127587)
- 12.20pm Regional News (T) (4458755)
- 12.30am News (T) (9838668)
- 12.55am Special Report. Three teenagers recount their personal battles against cancer (9915677)
- 1.25am Home and Away (T) (6420826) 1.50am Murder, She Wrote (T) (1475552) 2.40am Savannah (T) (9242282)
- 3.20am News (T) (7836858)
- 3.25am Regional News (T) (7835129)
- 3.30am TV (T) (8209939) 3.40am Caribou Kitchen (9550194) 3.50am Donald Duck (8155113) 4.10am Scooby's Amazing Adventures (9118736) 4.20am Snap (T) (8875771) 4.50am The Big Bang. New series, more magic and things to make (T) (1739620)
- 5.10am Sorted Discussion programme aimed at teenagers (1899393)
- 5.40am News (T) and weather (83853)
- 6.00am Home and Away (T) (785858)
- 6.25am HTV Weather (885939)
- 6.30am HTV News (T) (858)
- 7.00am Wish You Were Here? Ann Bryson cruises around the Far East: Judith Chalmers visits Nerja in Spain, a quiet spot on the Costa del Sol; and Julian Ballantyne tries out an activity holiday in Perthshire (T) (6378)
- 7.30am Coronation Street Will Derek make it to Mavis's birthday party? (T) (84)
- 8.00am World in Action An investigation of the pensions industry (T) (5026)

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### CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (9919587)
- 1.50am Blue Heelers (2473397)
- 2.50-3.20am High Road (5184858)
- 5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (1695839)
- 6.25-7.00am Central News (131054)
- 10.40am Film: Psycho IV: The Beginning (18706216)
- 12.30am Sound Bites (5943765)
- 12.40am Football Extra (4372175)
- 1.25am Stand and Deliver (1702048)
- 2.25am Film: The Trap (79725)
- 4.25am Central Jobfinder '97 (4298866)
- 5.20am Asian Eye (2541779)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (9919587)
- 1.50am Down by the River (2483462)
- 2.20-3.20am Blue Heelers (1312736)
- 5.10-5.40am Home and Away (1695839)
- 6.00am Meridian Tonight (378)
- 6.30-7.00am Country Ways (858)
- 10.30am Meridian News and Weather (322007)
- 10.45am Seven Days — an Election Special (441945)
- 11.15am The Pier (929741)
- 11.45am Prisoner: Call Block H (899484)
- 5.00am FreeScreen (11972)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (9919587)
- 1.50am Blue Heelers (2473397)
- 2.50-3.20am Jungle on Your Doorstep (5184858)
- 5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (1695839)
- 6.25-7.00am Anglia News (131084)
- 10.30am Anglia News and Weather (322007)
- 10.45am Film: Gregory's Girl (16705567)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (9919587)
- 1.50am Blue Heelers (2473397)
- 2.50-3.20am Jungle on Your Doorstep (5184858)
- 5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (1695839)
- 6.25-7.00am Anglia News (131084)
- 10.30am Anglia News and Weather (322007)
- 10.45am Film: Gregory's Girl (16705567)

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### WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (9919587)
- 1.50am Down by the River (2483462)
- 2.20-3.20am Blue Heelers (1312736)
- 5.10-5.40am Home and Away (1695839)
- 6.00am Meridian Tonight (378)
- 6.30-7.00am Country Ways (858)
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### CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (37571) 7.00am The Big Breakfast (12129) 9.00am Bewitched (51945) 9.30am Sister Sister (T) (8831945) 9.55am Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (T) (T) (7289533) 10.20am The Crystal Maze (T) (7586804) 11.20am Earthworm Jim (T) (743649) 11.45am The Pink Panther (T) (828552)
- 12.00am Right to Reply (T) (88281)
- 12.30pm Light Lunch Chat, cookery and audience participation, with Mel Giedroyc, Sue Perkins and guests (98649)
- 1.30am Phantoms (1833, b/w) A.W.C. Fields short (2288984)
- 1.50am The River's Edge (1957) with Ray Milland, Anthony Quinn and Debra Paget. A chase thriller about a thief forcing a border guard and his wife to lead him over the mountains to Mexico directed by Allan Dwan (T) (4295568)
- 3.30am Collectors' Lot. From a 16th-century hall in East Anglia (T) (736) 4.00am Fifteen-to-One (T) (571) 4.30am Countdown (T) (755) 5.00am Montel Williams (T) (7484) 5.30am Pet Rescue (T) (197)
- 6.00am The Cosby Show (T) (820)
- 6.30am Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (200)
- 7.00am Channel 4 News (T) (744378)
- 7.50am Thatcher's Children (T) (408026)
- 8.00am Mrs. Cohen's Money: Investment A new six-part series looking at the world of personal finance (T) (3688)
- 8.30am Brookside The first of this week's five episodes of the Merseyside soap Max and Susanah face a tragedy that will change their lives forever (T) (5303)
- 9.00am The Surgery A fly-on-the-wall documentary series about three Manchester GPs (1/3) (T) (1397)
- 10.00am Dark Sides Offbeat science fiction drama series (T) (4484)
- 11.00am Armstrong and Miller Wacky comedy sketches from Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller (97465)
- 11.45am Pastiche People: Sales Pitch Animation (T) (536533)
- 11.55am Midnight Special New discussion series created by Vincent Hanna (440259)
- 1.25am Triumph of the Nerds (1/3) (T) (7007430)
- 2.25am Forever, Lulu (1987) with Hanna Schygulla, Deborah Harry and Alec Baldwin. The story of an immigrant in America who loses control and goes on a rampage in New York. Directed by Amos Kollek (74931)
- 4.00am Grampian Sheepdog Trials (T)
- 4.25am From Beirut to Bosnia with Robert Flek (1/3) (T) (424333)
- 5.25-6.00am Backstage (T) (T) (7123953)

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### CHANNEL 5

- 6.00am 5 News Early (7915738)
- 7.30am Havalakoo (2035194)
- 8.00am Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2653823)
- 8.30am Wildworld Stephen Cole presents the first in a series exploring where the power really lies within the Government of the United States (2552194)
- 9.00am Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (2586668)
- 10.00am Exclusive (T)
- 10.30am Attractions (T) (2745858)
- 11.00am Looza Chat show (982342)
- 11.50am Double Espresso (4535957)
- 12.00am The Bold and the Beautiful A soap set in Los Angeles (T) (2656910)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (9547026)
- 1.00-5.00am News Update (9250262)
- 1.05am Sunset Beach (T) (8662738)
- 2.00-5.00am Company. Gossip, competitions, comedy and music (5273561)
- 3.30am The Weekender Ship in the Army (1980) with Jack Lemmon and Ricky Nelson. A comedy about the incompetent crew of a gunship providing an escort through Japanese-held Pacific waters. Directed by Richard Murphy (4540465)
- 5.20-5.30am Company: Late Extra (14402571)
- 5.30-10.00pm Per Cent (1882129)
- 5.30-10.00pm Whistle Quiz show with audience participation (T) (1508842)
- 6.30am Family Affairs The Hart children take advantage of their parents' absence. Jamie gets a shock when he walks in on his grandfather (T) (1509194)
- 7.00am Exclusive Showbiz magazine (1417378)
- 7.30am Serengeti Safari: The Long-Legged Marching Eagle The secretary bird, a long-legged bird of prey with a penchant for stamping on poisonous snakes (T) (1508878)
- 8.00am Hot Property Series about the housing market. A gay couple view three Bristol properties (T) (1426026)
- 8.30-5.00am News with Kirsty Young and Rob Butler (1405533)
- 5.57-7.00am Sale of the Century (538942) 7.00am One A Cue (142945) 8.20am All Choked Up (487726) 8.50am Through the Keyhole (71510) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 4.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 5.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 6.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 7.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 8.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 9.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 10.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 11.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 12.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 1.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 2.30am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.00am The Big Bang (5184858) 3.30am The Big Bang (518485



